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Part XIII
Development Account

Section 34
Development Account

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* A summary of the approved programme budget will subsequently be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/62/6/Add.1).

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Overview

34.1 Pursuant to the proposal of the Secretary-General in his report entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950), the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/12 B, decided, inter alia, to establish a development account in the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999. In its resolution 52/221 A, the Assembly approved an appropriation of $13,065,000 for the Development Account under section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

34.2 In accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/235, in which the Assembly requested a detailed report on the sustainability of the Development Account, the modalities of its implementation, the specific purposes and the associated performance criteria for the use of resources, the Secretary-General submitted a report on the operation of the Development Account (A/53/945). Having considered that report and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/53/7/Add.12), the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/15, decided, inter alia, to establish a special multi-year account for supplementary development activities based on the programmes of the approved medium-term plan.

34.3 In its resolution 54/250 A, the General Assembly approved an appropriation of $13,065,000 for the Development Account under section 33 of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. In the last five bienniums (1998-1999, 2000-2001, 2002-2003, 2004-2005 and 2006-2007), the Assembly has approved 90 projects for funding through the Development Account.

34.4 In its resolution 60/246, the General Assembly decided that the Development Account should be recosted for the biennium 2006-2007. The results of that exercise led to an increase of $889,100 in the initial appropriation, raising it to $13,954,100, as compared with $13,065,000 for previous bienniums. During the preparation of the first performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, the Account was recosted, resulting in an increase of $26,800. In its resolution 61/252 the Assembly decided to appropriate the amount of $2.5 million as an immediate exceptional measure towards addressing the lack of transfer of resources to the Account since its inception. Accordingly, the revised appropriation of the Development Account for the biennium 2006-2007 amounts to $16,480,900, reflecting an increase of $3,415,900 over the level of the Account approved by the Assembly at its inception. Detailed proposals on the use of these resources in the biennium 2008-2009, presented in the annex, are based on the procedures and arrangements for the use of the Account approved by the Assembly in its resolutions 53/220 A, 53/220 B, 54/15, 54/249, 56/237, 60/246 and 61/252.

Resource requirements by component

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Regular budget

Component	*2004-2005 expenditure*	*2006-2007 revised appropriation*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*2008-2009 estimate*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Development Account	13 065.0	16 480.9	—	—	16 480.9	—	16 480.9

34.5 The objective of the Development Account is to fund technical cooperation projects, for the benefit of numerous developing countries, in the priority programmatic areas under the responsibility of the respective implementing entities (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, all regional commissions, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations

Human Settlements Programme), particularly to advance the implementation of the development goals agreed by United Nations conferences and summits.

34.6 The overall theme of the sixth tranche of the Development Account is "Supporting progress towards achieving internationally agreed development goals, through innovation, networking and knowledge management". The 27 projects proposed for the sixth tranche will be implemented by the 10 entities of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs, in many cases in partnership with other entities of the United Nations system and international and national organizations. The proposed projects comply with the criteria established by the Assembly, taking into account the implementation capacity of the entity concerned and with due regard to the balanced distribution of project benefits. The projects emphasize the use of information and communications technology for knowledge management, networking to share expertise of local practitioners, including in the context of South-South cooperation, and exploring and establishing partnerships among stakeholders.

34.7 The list of proposed projects was reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs at its meetings of 5 and 21 December 2006.

34.8 The utilization of the Development Account is based on a three-phase project cycle. It starts with the project design, followed by the project implementation and completed by the evaluation. Following the approval by the Assembly of the concept papers contained in the budget fascicle, the relevant implementing entities will prepare detailed project documents based on consultations with stakeholders (implementing partners and target groups) and submit them to the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, programme manager of the Account, for review and approval. The implementing entities submit annually progress reports to the programme manager. Those reports serve as a basis for monitoring the progress made and preparing progress reports to the Assembly. Upon the completion of each project, an evaluation is conducted and a report is made to the programme manager.

34.9 A report will be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session in response to the Assembly's request to the Secretary-General in its resolution 61/252 for (a) a comprehensive report setting out recommendations on how additional resources, without using surpluses, could be identified for transfer to the Development Account, including (i) a review of the modalities and rationale for the funding of the Development Account as contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the Account submitted to the Assembly at its fifty-second session and subsequent reports of the Secretary-General and resolutions of the Assembly, in the light of experience, and (ii) a definition of procedures to identify efficiency or other gains, including but not limited to any potential savings that might be identified by Member States for transfer to the Development Account in the context of intergovernmental processes, as well as practical measures for their implementation, and (b) an assessment of the impact of the Development Account in terms of its aims and purposes.

34.10 This fascicle should be read in conjunction with the fifth progress report on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account, which is being prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with a request of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (see A/58/7/Add.5), that a separate progress report be submitted to the Assembly detailing the impact and lessons learned. The Development Account website (www.developmentaccount.org) provides detailed information by project and is regularly updated.

Annex

Projects proposed for funding from the Development Account during the biennium 2008-2009

A. Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impact

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($1,193,000)

Background

1. The international labour mobility of men and women and the associated processes of family consolidation have acquired great global relevance to development. Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean are experiencing unprecedented changes in the types and scale of their international migration flows. Global issues linked to national development and poverty alleviation strategies, as well as to several of the Millennium Development Goals — such as recent intraregional and interregional migratory trends, the magnitude and dynamics of remittances, the participation of women and its impact on gender equality, discrimination, racism and other forms of intolerance, and the migration of qualified workers — were considered as priority matters in the debates during the United Nations High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held in September 2006.

2. Considering the attention that Governments have given to these phenomena, including in several intergovernmental forums in which civil society has participated, it is urgent to address the lack of adequate information and comparative intra- and interregional studies required to underpin common development strategies. Additionally, the exchange of experiences and good practices between countries and regions is still limited. For these reasons, this project is aimed at facilitating the exchange of experiences regarding migration information systems, applied studies and good policy practices so as to broaden the global, regional and national knowledge base and to increase national capacities for migration management in the aforementioned regions.

3. As acknowledged by the Secretary-General in his report (A/60/871), the global character of international migration and the increase in interregional migration have important regional specificities. This project is aimed at identifying the commonalities of international migration across the five regions, as well as the region-specific relevant characteristics associated with development, along the lines of the objectives of the High-level Dialogue.

4. The project will benefit from the existing initiatives on migration information systems as well as studies carried out by the respective regional commissions in recent years for the purpose of strengthening and creating information networks on migration. On the basis of these experiences, the project will strengthen existing networks and develop new ones where they do not exist. The project will be executed by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. ECLAC will act as leader/coordinator of the project.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen national capacities to incorporate international migration issues into national development strategies in order to maximize the development benefits of international migration and minimize its negative impacts, by improving the quality and availability of data on international migration, highlighting female migration, by increasing institutional and human capacities to design and implement policies and programmes and by promoting cooperation through an effective intra- and interregional network for the exchange of information, studies, policies, experiences and good practices among countries and regions.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: ECLAC subprogramme 6 (Population and development); ESCAP subprogramme 8 (Social development, including persistent and emerging issues); ESCWA subprogramme 2 (Integrated social policies); ECA subprogramme 10 (Social development); ECE subprogramme 8 (Housing, land management and population); Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogramme 6 (Population); Millennium Development Goals 1, 2, 3 and 8.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	255.0
Travel	80.0
Contractual services	400.0
Operating expenses	100.5
Workshops/training	357.5
Total	**1 193.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Establishment of an effective interregional network of national and regional centres, institutions and experts, aimed at increasing knowledge and the exchange of good practices on policy responses to migration and development challenges in the five aforementioned regions	(a) Number of relevant national and regional institutions and academic centres contributing to and making use of a web-based interregional/regional network on international migration and development
(b) Increased availability of information on international migration and its development impacts	(b) Number of new or updated national and regional databases and analyses in respect of relevant issues and emerging trends on international migration
(c) Increased national skills and capacities to design and implement policies and programmes that consider the particular challenges of international migration	(c) Number of countries making use of the information about good practices in respect of policy responses to international migration challenges, taking into account the human rights perspective

Main activities

5. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) In coordination with the regional commissions and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, identifying and designating research centres that will be collaborating with the

regional commissions in the collection, analysis, exchange and dissemination of studies and results in respect of policy responses to main international migration issues identified;

(b) Organizing one coordination meeting with the participation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional commissions and one interregional meeting with the participation of national and regional counterparts to exchange regional experiences;

(c) Establishing a regional network of centres, institutions and experts from relevant international organizations and from governmental and non-governmental organizations for a systematic exchange of information, knowledge and best practices and creating an interconnected regional website on this subject; promoting stronger links between regions that share migration flows;

(d) Conducting studies on international migration challenges in each region, giving special attention to the particular situation in selected countries in each region, identifying priority issues such as gender and female migration; the dynamics and the effects of remittances for origin and destination countries; qualified migration; and the degree of adherence of countries to international instruments on human rights and mechanisms of cooperation;

(e) Organization of one workshop for governmental officials on the compilation, standardization and dissemination of information on international migration and mechanisms to exchange data between countries, considering best practices;

(f) Preparation of regional comparative studies on national policies and legal norms concerning immigration as well as on policies regarding emigrants and their links with their home country;

(g) Creation of a basic platform in selected countries for the development of an information system containing an inventory of policies, programmes and legal norms, as well as institutions and civil society organizations working in the area of international migration;

(h) Organizing one interregional expert-group meeting with selected participants to exchange best practices and compare policies and laws on international migration, with particular attention to the inclusion of migration issues in development strategies and poverty alleviation strategies;

(i) Convening one interregional meeting with the participation of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, regional commissions, research centres and national/regional experts and government officials;

(j) Production and dissemination of comparative interregional studies based on results of the project.

B. Enhancing the capacity of developing countries to implement international standards for commercial agricultural products to improve their trade competitiveness

Economic Commission for Europe, jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($703,000)

Background

6. Most developing and transition economies lack the capital, technology and human resources to meet internationally agreed commercial agricultural quality standards. Because compliance with those standards is widely used by importing countries as a condition for granting access to developed-economy markets, developing and transition economies are at a competitive disadvantage in the agricultural sector. The application of internationally agreed standards by developing countries, and especially by least developed countries, would facilitate the export of their agricultural products, stimulate the development of the agricultural sector and raise average incomes, especially among rural populations.

7. The proposed joint project would build capacity in poor and low-income developing economies for the implementation of international commercial quality standards and sanitary and phytosanitary measures for agricultural products. The project would draw upon the long-standing expertise of ECE in the development and practical use of agricultural quality standards in the region and worldwide. To date, 36 of the 85 fruit and vegetable standards of ECE have been incorporated in European Union legislation and are widely used by traders. The project would draw upon the expertise of ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA on agricultural trade in their regions, the expertise of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in providing technical assistance to help countries meet market entry requirements, such as agri-food quality standards, and the expertise of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and other agencies in product-testing laboratories.

8. Networks of national and regional counterparts would be established under the project to work together with public and private stakeholders (experts, producers, exporters, traders, processors, etc.) from countries with advanced agricultural export/import sectors, including low- and middle-income countries. Those stakeholders would participate in country-specific assessments, to be followed by regional workshops for sharing lessons learned among all countries in the region and formulating recommendations. The workshops would also serve as capacity-building activities. The project would be executed jointly by ECE (lead) and the other regional commissions, in collaboration with UNCTAD, UNIDO, Codex Alimentarius and other agencies.

Objective of the Organization: To improve ability of low-income agrarian economies to implement international standards for commercial agricultural products and thus improve their competitiveness in international markets.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: ECE subprogramme 6 (Trade); ESCWA subprogramme 1 (Sustainable development); ESCAP subprogramme 4 (Trade and investment); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 8.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	92.5
Travel	87.5
Study tours	18.0
Contractual services	106.6
Workshops	398.4
Total	**703.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased knowledge of agricultural quality standards and understanding of the importance of strengthening the institutional and technical infrastructure for their implementation and use, and of establishing related systems of conformity assessment (importing countries normally require certificates of conformity with applicable standards from relevant institutions in the exporting country)	(a) (i) Recommendations formulated for setting up institutional and technical infrastructure for the adoption of standards and their practical use, and the establishment of related systems of conformity assessment based on country assessments and regional workshops (ii) Number of countries or organizations with plans to implement or promote the recommendations stemming from the regional workshops
(b) Strengthened regional networks of national and international counterparts from the ministries responsible for trade, agriculture and technical regulations and standards for commercial agricultural products as well as from producers' associations and/or cooperatives of farmers, export associations and chambers of commerce	(b) (i) Increased number of public and private experts participating in international and regional work on standards development and implementation (ii) Number of national experts, producers' associations, export associations and regional organizations using the recommendations and country assessments discussed at the regional lessons-learned workshops as the basis for further work
(c) Improved organization of the agricultural supply chain, which will contribute to more effective quality management practices at every stage (farm to export)	(c) Number of countries where critical control points have been identified and recommendations formulated with regard to how quality management can be improved at those points (or where there are concrete plans to do so)

Main activities

9. The main activities of the project will include:

   (a) Preparing country-assessment papers on the basis of a questionnaire developed under the project; reviewing the legislative and technical infrastructure for standards implementation and conformity assessment; and drafting recommendations;

   (b) Organizing five regional lessons-learned workshops for national Governments, trade representatives (producers' associations, export associations, chambers of commerce) and other interested parties in order to present and discuss, within a regional context, the findings and recommendations of the national assessments;

   (c) Establishing mechanisms to facilitate the sharing of information and the exchange of best practices on the development, interpretation and use of standards, including hands-on training courses, the establishment of a website and the launching of interactive online forums to strengthen consultation and transparency;

   (d) Promoting the participation of national experts in existing international forums for the development and application of agricultural standards by informing those experts about the relevance of the forums for their work and by financing their participation in them;

   (e) Providing technical assistance to strengthen national institutions' capacity to develop, adopt and apply commercial agricultural standards.

C. Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($736,000)

Background

10. Violence against women is a major human rights problem and a main obstacle to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. All humanity would benefit from an end to such violence. The regional commissions, in collaboration with the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, will join their efforts through an interregional project to enhance capacities to eliminate violence against women. The project originates in the outcome of a regional inter-agency assessment (2006) of the situation of violence against women coordinated by ECLAC to contribute to the Secretary-General's study on violence against women. The research clearly showed the need to support existing governmental efforts to eradicate violence against women in all its manifestations, especially at the implementation level.

11. The basic thrust of this project is to make available to policymakers, activists and women's organizations the existing knowledge in terms of policies, findings, innovative practices, processes and statistical data. The project intends to address the need to learn more about successful implementation practices, considering that the majority of countries have already adopted legislation and outlined policies, but are currently facing a wide gap between the growing demand for justice and services and the low level of resources and knowledge of the institutions involved in monitoring and services. As violence against women is a global phenomenon, the project

recognizes the importance of collaborative response, participative action and sharing of good practices, and thus the need for the regional commissions to promote the active participation of national machineries for the advancement of women as well as national statistical institutions and civil society.

Objective of the Organization: To develop and invigorate a knowledge community on violence against women at the regional and interregional levels.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogramme 2 (Gender issues and advancement of women); ECLAC subprogramme 5 (Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development); ECA subprogramme 6 (Gender and women in development); ECE subprogramme 3 (Statistics); ESCAP subprogramme 8 (Social development including persistent and emerging issues); ESCWA subprogramme 6 (Advancement of women); Millennium Development Goal 3.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	60.0
Consultants	195.0
Expert groups	40.0
Travel	70.0
Contractual services	30.0
Operating expenses	65.0
Workshops	276.0
Total	**736.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased number of national machineries for the advancement of women and other stakeholders that have substantially improved their knowledge and capacities to implement effective policies towards the eradication of violence against women	(a) Stakeholders in at least 15 countries in Europe, at least 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean and at least 5 in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia will be formally committed and participating in the knowledge community
(b) Improved skills and tools to manage violence against women in all regions integrated in their practices by national machineries, police, judiciary and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including formulation of plans and programmes and data collection	(b) (i) At least 5 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa and Europe combined and at least 3 in Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia will have an updated and periodical database on the web dealing especially with femicides and physical, sexual and psychological violence, including statistics and public records (ii) At least 15 countries in Europe, at least 8 in Latin America and the Caribbean, at least 5 in Africa and at least 3 in Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia will implement an information system adjusted to local and regional needs
(c) National statistical offices will have improved their capacity to measure violence against women through the use of common methodologies and indicators developed by statisticians, policymakers and NGOs in the	(c) (i) At least 15 countries in Europe, 8 in Latin America and the Caribbean, 5 in Africa and 3 in Asia and the Pacific and Western Asia will develop new knowledge to improve practices for the eradication of

framework of official statistics, including the use of a common short module to measure violence against women in population-based surveys	violence against women, including by carrying out surveys and keeping sustainable public records (ii) Stakeholders from at least 10 countries in Europe and 3 international organizations will work for the development of the common short module and indicators to measure violence against women and will plan to use them in the near future

Main activities

12. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Organizing one international expert meeting to assess existing knowledge, information and learning initiatives in selected countries of the five regional commissions;

(b) Building and updating the regional web portal and an interregional web portal;

(c) Conducting one regional training workshop for national monitors; conducting two seminars for users and producers of information; convening five regional workshops and one interregional workshop (e-learning);

(d) Making a bilingual kit for the collection and use of information on violence against women;

(e) Organizing six subregional workshops and one regional workshop on the measurement of violence against women;

(f) Developing and testing short module on violence against women and core set of indicators;

(g) Production of national publications through which new knowledge and innovations can be shared; preparation of final regional publications;

(h) Production of one publication comparing the data collected by the five regional commissions;

(i) Undertaking one final review through the ECLAC web board and one final review through the ECA Committee on Women and Development.

13. Main activities carried out in each region to fulfil the expected accomplishments of the project will depend on the progress already achieved by each regional commission in terms of accumulation of knowledge regarding violence against women.

D. Enhancing the trade competitiveness of least developed countries, countries in transition, and transit countries through the implementation of single-window facilities

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, jointly with the Economic Commission for Europe and in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($763,000)

Background

14. Simplified one-stop systems for the submission and processing of trade documents and requirements have been established in many developed and developing countries. This single-window approach to trade has reduced the cost and complexity of international trade, increased competitiveness and reduced corruption at the border. Single-window systems are especially important for small and medium-sized enterprises, for which the relative cost of trade procedures is high, as well as for exports, because procedural costs reduce the competitiveness of goods from low-income countries. This project aims to enhance institutional and human capacities of landlocked and transit least developed countries and countries in transition to develop and implement a single-window facility in order to increase export competitiveness and reduce the time and the costs of doing trade. Establishing a subregional network of stakeholders (primarily from customs, trade and other relevant ministries), undertaking the country-specific feasibility assessments and preparing the business case to spearhead the development of a single-window facility are the main components of the project. The project beneficiaries will be both government officials and the business sector, especially small and medium-sized enterprises in landlocked and transit least developed countries and countries in transition in South, South-East and Central Asia.

15. The project will be implemented by ESCAP, in partnership with ECE. UNCTAD will also collaborate in the delivery of the project. The project will also tap into the experience of the Asian Development Bank, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia, and will take into account existing common country assessments and United Nations development assistance frameworks.

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of the Governments in least developed countries and countries in transition in South, South-East and Central Asia to develop single-window facilities to reduce the cost and complexity of trade transactions and increase their export competitiveness.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: ESCAP subprogramme 4 (Trade and investment); ECE subprogramme 6 (Trade); Millennium Development Goal 8.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	40.0
Consultants	293.9
Travel	149.6
Contractual services	20.0
Operating expenses	22.7
Workshops	236.8
Total	**763.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved national capacities of least developed countries and countries in transition to develop and implement integrated national and subregional single-window systems	(a) Increased number of national action plans to implement single-window facilities
(b) Adoption of trade facilitation recommendations, guidelines and tools of the United Nations Centre for Facilitation of Procedures and Practices for Administration, Commerce and Transport, ESCAP tools and international conventions related to the establishment of single-window facilities and the alignment of trade documents	(b) Increased implementation in target countries of best practices and measures relating to trade facilitation, in particular single-window facilities

Main activities

16. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Organizing an international conference on single-window facilities for least developed countries, countries in transition and transit countries to sensitize stakeholders and development partners to the approach and benefits of a single window and develop the required political will;

(b) Establishing networks of subregional counterparts, including national representatives from customs, trade and other relevant ministries and agencies, as well as business, to spearhead the functional design and introduction of the single window;

(c) Undertaking four country-specific feasibility studies and three subregional studies on the approach, scope and business model for the single window;

(d) Organizing four national workshops-cum-advisory services on introducing the single window in eight countries with all stakeholders and developing road maps towards action plans for establishing a single window;

(e) Conducting three subregional workshops to review national experiences and consider the subregional feasibility studies, best practices and suggested strategies for the implementation of the single window, and assist in the preparation of national and subregional action plans;

(f) Conducting and publishing a study on best practices and suggested strategies for the implementation of the single window;

(g) Expanding an existing online trade and transport facilitation database to make it available to the project countries;

(h) Organizing a meeting to monitor and review progress in the implementation of single-window facilities in project countries.

E. Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, jointly with the Economic and Social Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and in collaboration with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme ($753,000)

Background

17. Infrastructure development is critical for the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 to 7. The unmet demand for infrastructure to support the delivery of housing, transportation, energy and water services limits economic opportunity and is therefore a major barrier to the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 1 (poverty and hunger reduction). Patterns of infrastructure development determine the environmental sustainability of economic growth (Millennium Development Goal 7). In turn, eco-efficiency is a key factor for the development of sustainable infrastructure, and therefore a key objective in developing, planning and building more sustainable cities. More eco-efficient infrastructure delivers higher-quality services with less use of resources and low negative environmental impact, as well as less vulnerability to natural disasters. In the context of climate change, eco-efficient infrastructure development is essential for the development of low-carbon economies. It also expands financing opportunities through the clean development mechanism, on the basis of avoided greenhouse-gas emissions.

18. Enhancing awareness and promoting the application of eco-efficiency concepts among policymakers, planners and decision makers are urgently needed. Environmental impacts resulting from the long-term use of infrastructure need to be reflected in policies and programmes through tools such as strategic environmental assessments. Integrated people-centred planning in cities such as Curitiba, Brazil, and Bogotá have delivered substantial economic, environmental and social benefits, while more recent eco-city development initiatives in Asia, such as those in Bangalore and Auroville, India, as well as the proposed Dongtan City, China, are pioneering the application of sustainability concepts to infrastructure development. This project seeks to promote the application of eco-efficiency as a key factor for sustainable infrastructure development and as a basis for expanding infrastructure financing opportunities through the development of the capacity of decision makers, policymakers and planners to assess the eco-efficiency of their infrastructure in an integrated manner. The participation of established networks is expected to sustain and multiply project impacts and to ensure sharing of good practices at the regional and interregional levels. The project will benefit from work already done by project partners. After the formal completion of the project, it is expected that e-learning training modules will sustain project impacts and that relevant training institutions, networks and universities will continue to provide training.

Objective of the Organization: To improve the capacity of policymakers, planners and decision makers to increase the environmental sustainability of infrastructure development, with emphasis on urban planning, eco-efficiency, disaster prevention, social inclusiveness and financing opportunities through participation in global carbon markets.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: ESCAP subprogrammes 1 (Poverty and development), 5 (Transport and tourism) and 6 (Environment and sustainable development); ECLAC subprogramme 8 (Environment and human settlements); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	35.0
Consultants	159.5
Expert groups	91.8
Travel	34.8
Contractual services	212.0
Operating expenses	12.9
Study tours	16.0
Workshops	191.0
Total	**753.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced regional knowledge management, analytical capacity, awareness and understanding in respect of eco-efficiency concepts, their contribution to the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 1 and 7 and their application to infrastructure development	(a) At least 50 per cent of the policymakers, planners and decision makers who participated in the project workshops/capacity-building activities demonstrate that they have improved knowledge and understanding of eco-efficiency concepts
(b) Adoption of eco-efficiency concepts, measures and criteria, such as strategic environmental assessments, in policies, plans and decision-making relating to infrastructure development	(b) Increased number of initiatives that adopt eco-efficiency concepts, measures and criteria, such as strategic environmental assessments, in policies, plans and decision-making relating to infrastructure development
(c) Increased participation in clean energy and energy efficiency investment opportunities, increased participation in carbon markets with programmatic and bundled clean development mechanism projects related to transport, power and energy-intensive industrial infrastructure	(c) Increased number of clean energy, energy efficiency and clean development mechanism projects identified and under development

Main activities

19. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Conducting collaborative research on various aspects of eco-efficiency;

(b) Developing methodologies/indicators/software tools to assess the eco-efficiency of various infrastructures;

(c) Assessing eco-efficiency in selected infrastructures/cities and conducting case studies;

(d) Identification of policies and planning methodologies that contribute to increasing eco-efficiency, poverty reduction and social inclusiveness;

(e) For selected cities/countries, development of strategies and policies for sustainable infrastructure development, and/or pilot projects in specific sectors, based on the results of

activities (c) and (d) above and including initiatives to identify and incorporate clean energy investment and clean development mechanism projects in their infrastructure investment;

(f) Outreach and dissemination of knowledge — organizing regional and interregional workshops of municipal authorities, establishing relevant networks, media events, training programmes, website preparation, preparation of publications;

(g) Development and testing of e-learning and other training modules to build capacity in assessing eco-efficiency and in developing policies and plans for improving the eco-efficiency of infrastructure;

(h) Conducting reviews and evaluations of project implementation and production of the report to be discussed by project partners at the closing review meeting.

F. African statistical knowledge networks in support of progress towards the internationally agreed development goals

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, jointly with the Economic Commission for Africa ($896,000)

Background

20. There is a broad consensus among African countries and development partners about the need for better statistics that lead to better policies for the achievement of the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Consistent underresourcing of national statistical offices and largely uncoordinated assistance from development partners have led to limited institutional and infrastructural development, which explains the current underperformance of the statistical systems in Africa. Those systems are providing limited statistical products and services in terms of quantity, type and quality, and are therefore unable to respond adequately to the increasing demand by countries and the international community for better development statistics.

21. In order to address these problems, the African Centre for Statistics has been created in ECA under the auspices of the Executive Secretary. This repositioning of statistics will enable ECA to play its rightful role in statistical development by enhancing statistical capacities of African countries for better policymaking and tracking of progress towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

22. As a result of lack of large-scale pan-African statistics-development initiatives in the past decade, there is a lack of continent-wide networks of professional statisticians. To ensure the success of any future initiatives in African statistical capacity-building, statistical knowledge networks among African national statistical offices need to be built. Only when such networks exist, and coordinated approaches to African statistical capacity-building are entrenched, will there be continent-wide progress in statistics.

23. The project will be executed by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ECA. The project builds upon lessons learned from five statistical development projects implemented or being implemented by the Statistics Division in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), ASEAN, ESCWA, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) regions. All of those projects have been successful in strengthening the regional network of statisticians, increasing intraregional statistical cooperation and raising the regional profile of statistics. They have also provided those regions with an impetus in statistical capacity-building, as shown by the number of region-led follow-up projects. The project will also build on the experiences gained from a prototype project on the

development of African practices in the adoption and implementation of international statistical standards, which is currently in the planning stages.

Objective of the Organization: To create African statistical knowledge networks to strengthen the capacity of African countries for the production, analysis and dissemination of benchmark statistics required for national development planning and for monitoring of the internationally agreed development goals.	**Summary budget** (Thousands of United States dollars)	
	Consultants	86.0
	Travel	130.0
	Contractual services	60.0
	Equipment	110.0
	Operating expenses	10.0
	Study tours	125.0
	Workshops	375.0
Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogramme 5 (Statistics); ECA subprogramme 9 (Statistics).	**Total**	**896.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved knowledge-sharing among African national statistical offices to increase the quantity of quality, timely and relevant data on internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals	(a) Increased volume of official statistical data for tracking progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals used by statistical systems
(b) Increased adoption of international statistical methods and standards with a strong regional approach, towards the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals	(b) Increased number of national statistical offices using common statistical definitions and methodologies

Main activities

24. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Organizing five seminars for staff of national statistical offices to identify and review African practices in the adoption and implementation of international statistical standards, in order to improve their technical capabilities in the areas of management of statistical systems, economic statistics, vital statistics, labour statistics and data management;

(b) Production of materials on African practices in the adoption and implementation of international statistical standards in the areas of management of statistical systems, economic statistics, vital statistics, and labour statistics;

(c) Providing technical assistance to strengthen national institutions in the implementation of international statistical standards in the areas of management of statistical systems, economic statistics, vital statistics, labour statistics and data management;

(d) Promoting exchanges of staff among statistical offices to encourage the implementation of common methodologies and to facilitate exchanges of information on international statistical standards, in the areas of management of statistical systems, economic statistics, vital statistics, labour statistics and data management;

(e) Establishing connectivity to the Internet for staff from African national statistical offices to promote access to and sharing of information in statistics-related data management and

specific areas of social and economic statistics, as well as statistical organization and management;

(f) Creation of an African statistical knowledge networks website to disseminate international statistical standards, statistical reports and African practices and experiences in their adoption and implementation.

G. Capacity-building for graduation strategies for least developed countries in Asia and Africa

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Economic Commission for Africa ($615,000)

Background

25. The category of least developed countries was introduced in 1971, to enable such countries to benefit from the special measures adopted by the international development community. Potential benefits fall into four main areas: (a) preferential market access, (b) special treatment regarding World Trade Organization-related obligations, (c) official development assistance and other forms of development financing, and (d) technical cooperation and other forms of assistance. In the 35 years since the establishment of the category, the number of least developed countries has more than doubled. The Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 states that the Programme's success will be judged by its contribution to progress of least developed countries towards achieving international development goals, as well as their graduation from the list of least developed countries. In this respect, there is an element of progress: several countries have recently been recommended for graduation, indicating their success in development. However, the withdrawal of effective benefits associated with least developed country status could lead to a disruption of their development and result in countries' backsliding to the least developed country category. Ensuring a smooth transition for countries graduating from least developed country status is of great importance. However, the list of least developed countries remains long, which should be of concern to the international community. The lack of success in development is due to a multitude of factors, one of which is an inability to take sufficient advantage of the potential benefits associated with least developed country status.

26. With a view to identifying approaches to make inclusion in the list of least developed countries an effective tool for socio-economic transformation and convergence with other developing countries, this project will be aimed at strengthening the capacity of least developed countries to have access to the advantages associated with least developed country status and translate the potential benefits into effective benefits. The other main elements of the project are assessing the likely impact of graduation on countries, and building capacity and promoting strategies in preparation for a smooth transition and adjustment to the phasing out of advantages associated with least developed country status for countries approaching graduation.

27. The lead entity for the implementation of the project is the Development Policy and Analysis Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. The Division will implement the project in collaboration with UNCTAD, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), ESCAP and ECA.

Objective of the Organization: To improve the capacity of least developed countries to utilize the benefits derived from membership in the group of least developed countries and for graduation from that group.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogramme 7 (Global development trends, issues and policies); ECA subprogramme 1 (Trade, finance and economic development); ESCAP subprogrammes 3 (Development of Pacific island countries and territories) and 4 (Trade and investment).

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	79.2
Expert groups	45.0
Travel	90.0
Contractual services	147.8
Operating expenses	3.0
Workshops	250.0
Total	**615.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved capacity for gathering and sharing among least developed countries, development partners and relevant international organizations information about the potential and effective benefits associated with least developed country status	(a) Increased number of least developed countries that can retrieve accurate and timely research and analysis on information concerning access to the potential and effective benefits associated with inclusion in the list of least developed countries
(b) Improved capacity of least developed countries for assessing the likely impact of graduation	(b) Increased level of analytical input to the vulnerability profiles prepared by UNCTAD, on countries meeting the criteria for graduation for the first time
(c) Development of a least developed country toolkit that provides a menu of options for Governments to consider when designing strategies and policies to prepare for a smooth transition	(c) Increased availability of information on policy options, practical measures and concrete actions for the implementation of smooth transition strategies

Main activities

28. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Preparation and implementation of a detailed survey on awareness of the benefits associated with least developed country status and the degree to which beneficiary countries are taking advantage of such benefits;

(b) Seven case studies of countries earmarked for graduation (Cape Verde and Maldives), or identified as eligible for graduation (Samoa, Equatorial Guinea, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Vanuatu), to analyse how and to what extent the effective benefits obtained by those countries translated into progress towards graduation from least developed country status and how they prepare or are planning to prepare for a smooth transition;

(c) Organizing workshops for all 50 least developed countries and an expert-group meeting for staff of least developed country Governments, bilateral and multilateral donors and relevant international organizations, identifying potential areas for improving access to effective benefits that least developed countries can receive;

(d) Development of a toolkit offering an analytical review of potential and effective benefits associated with least developed country status and changes in the benefits as a result of graduation;

(e) Development of a web-based knowledge-sharing platform (on issues related to access to and phasing out of benefits associated with least developed country status) electronic discussion forums; an online networking facility for policymakers and experts from least developed countries and the international donor community, as well as experts from academia, the private sector and non-governmental organizations; online learning modules and case studies; and a repository of information on actual least developed country benefits;

(f) Providing technical assistance to strengthen national and regional institutions in least developed countries for the collection, compilation and dissemination of information on benefits associated with least developed country status and the use and maintenance of the Internet portal;

(g) Designing a pilot project identifying a country-specific macroeconomic model framework that can assist least developed countries in (a) assessing the potential loss of benefits resulting from graduation as an input to the vulnerability profiles, (b) simulating the economy-wide effects of compensatory policy responses, and (c) assessing the consistency of macroeconomic policies in response to the country's external vulnerability with long-term development objectives.

H. Strengthening statistical capacity in support of progress towards the internationally agreed development goals in the countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific ($683,900)

Background

29. The availability of good-quality statistics and the capacity of Governments, donors and international organizations to systematically measure, monitor and report reliable statistics and indicators lies at the heart of development policy and the achievement of the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In recent years, the Millennium Development Goals have succeeded in raising awareness of the importance of statistics for evidence-based policymaking. However, the current situation of statistical services constrains the effectiveness and achievement of national development planning and policy in many countries, especially in the poorest ones, where effective development policy interventions matter most. A substantial gap still exists between the need for statistics and monitoring tools and the ability of most countries in the SAARC region to routinely provide them.

30. SAARC aims to accelerate the process of economic and social development in its member States. This project is designed to improve the availability and reliability of basic data required for development planning in the SAARC region, with special emphasis on data requirements relating to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The project is also aimed at facilitating networking within the region through interactive sharing and management of knowledge and at strengthening links between producers and users of statistics. The project builds upon lessons learned from five statistical development projects implemented or being implemented by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the CARICOM, ASEAN, ESCWA, ECOWAS and SADC regions. All of those

projects have been successful in strengthening the regional network of statisticians, increasing intraregional statistical cooperation and raising the regional profile of statistics. They have also provided those regions with an impetus in statistical capacity-building as shown by the number of region-led follow-up projects.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of countries and relevant regional institutions in the SAARC region for the production and analysis, on a regular basis, of benchmark statistics required for national development planning and for monitoring progress towards the internationally agreed development goals.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogramme 5 (Statistics); ESCAP subprogramme 2 (Statistics).

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	69.0
Travel	139.5
Contractual services	30.4
Equipment	87.0
Operating expenses	10.0
Study tours	48.0
Workshops	300.0
Total	**683.9**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved organization of statistical systems and user-producer relationships, resulting in quality, timely and relevant data on internationally agreed development goals	(a) Increased volume of official statistical data for tracking progress towards the internationally agreed development goals used by statistical systems
(b) Increased adoption of international statistical methods and standards for knowledge management in relation to the measurement of progress towards the internationally agreed development goals	(b) Increased number of national statistical offices using common statistical definitions and methodologies and platforms for data and metadata exchange and dissemination

Main activities

31. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Organizing four training workshops for staff of national statistical offices to improve their technical capabilities in the collection of demographic, social and economic statistics and the harmonization of development indicators; in the organization of statistical systems; and in user-producer relationships;

(b) Establishing a network of experts in statistics-related information technology to promote knowledge management in the region in the form of common platforms for data and metadata exchange and the sharing of information on methodologies and statistical analysis;

(c) Providing technical assistance to strengthen national and regional institutions in the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistics and the use and maintenance of technology;

(d) Organizing intraregional study tours to draw on the strengths and achievements of countries in the region. This will allow staff from statistically less developed countries to learn from other countries' experiences and see examples of best practices in selected statistical fields.

I. Strengthening national capacity for the integration of sustainable development principles into development strategies in countries emerging from conflict

Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($546,000)

Background

32. The United Nations is increasingly focusing attention on post-conflict peacebuilding. In many cases, aspects of unsustainable development such as inequality in access to natural resources, environmental degradation, social disparities, ineffective governance structures and lack of economic progress are both the cause and the consequence of violent conflicts within countries. For this reason, the recently established Peacebuilding Commission emphasizes sustainable development, together with reconstruction and institution-building, as focus areas for the development of integrated strategies for post-conflict recovery. The international community plays an important role in assisting countries emerging from conflict to build capacity to effectively bridge the gap between short-term recovery efforts and longer-term development planning through the integration of sustainable development principles in national comprehensive development strategies.

33. Over the last decade, important progress has been made in developing and applying guidelines to develop sustainable development strategies and to integrate sustainable development principles in more medium-term-oriented strategies, such as poverty reduction strategies and Millennium Development Goal-based development strategies. However, those guidelines generally do not fully address major impediments to strategy development and implementation that are widespread in countries emerging from violent conflict, such as the lack of institutional structures accepted by all parts of the country and society, as well as the absence of data necessary to support evidence-based policymaking and to monitor strategy implementation.

34. A number of countries in post-conflict situations have had important experiences with strategy development and implementation, both positive and negative. The project will derive adaptable methodologies from those experiences and the existing generic guidelines on sustainable development strategies and make them available as a scalable toolkit. The methodologies will be made accessible to a wider audience via the Internet and will form the basis of targeted capacity-building at the subregional, regional and national levels. The project design also includes the facilitation of networking among interested Governments, in particular in Africa and Asia.

35. The project builds on the substantive and technical expertise available in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the area of sustainable development strategies. It also builds on experience gained from previous Development Account projects executed by the Department, such as on information systems for sustainable decision-making in the Caribbean region, as well as expert-group meetings on national sustainable development strategies held in Africa and Asia, a capacity-building project on sustainable development strategies in the Pacific, an African parliamentary capacity-building project and the United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance (UNPAN). It will be implemented by the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with contributions from other divisions of the Department, such as the Division for Public Administration and Development Management and the Division for Social Policy and Development. It is anticipated that additional funding may be leveraged from interested bilateral and/or multilateral donors, in particular for the translation of methodologies and undertaking training activities in French, Spanish and Arabic.

Objective of the Organization: To increase the capacity of countries emerging from conflict to integrate sustainable development principles into development strategies and thereby to increase the likelihood of sustainable peace.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogrammes 3 (Social policy and development), 4 (Sustainable development), 5 (Statistics) and 8 (Public administration, finance and development).

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	112.5
Expert groups	59.5
Travel	74.2
Contractual services	39.0
Workshops	260.8
Total	**546.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Sustainable development principles integrated into development strategies in countries emerging from conflict	(a) Number of countries emerging from conflict that report progress in the development and implementation of national sustainable development strategies to the Commission on Sustainable Development
(b) Increased capacity to utilize sustainable development principles in the policymaking of selected countries emerging from conflict	(b) More than two thirds of the participants in project activities report an increase in personal and institutional capacity to integrate sustainable development into their development strategies
(c) Production of methodologies available in a scalable toolkit on the inclusion of sustainable development principles in national development strategies as part of peacebuilding	(c) (i) Methodologies and toolkit on integrating sustainable development principles into national development strategies, with particular emphasis on challenges faced by countries emerging from conflict, made available online through the Department of Economic and Social Affairs websites (ii) Number of downloads from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs web pages

Main activities

36. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Organizing one expert-group meeting of resource persons to gather information and assess experiences and the status of methodologies for integrating sustainable development in development strategies of countries emerging from conflict. National and relevant international experts will contribute substantive papers on country-level experiences in this area and agree on additional methodologies or research needed under the project;

(b) Preparation of training materials and analytical tools collected in a scalable toolkit for integrative development planning, with emphasis on sustainable development principles and concepts as they relate to post-conflict circumstances. This will require the production of

substantive materials in user-friendly and flexible formats, as applicable, for wide distribution. The toolkit will be made available online (see activity (c) below) and on CD-ROM;

(c) Creation of a web page to facilitate the dissemination of and access to the toolkit, as well as to encourage networking. The web page will be created and maintained by the Division for Sustainable Development and made accessible through the relevant Department of Economic and Social Affairs web pages, such as the Division for Sustainable Development and UNPAN home pages;

(d) Two regional workshops (one for Africa and one for Asia) to familiarize participating countries with the toolkit, share experiences and foster cooperation and networking;

(e) Three national training workshops for government officials and major stakeholders with the aim of improving participants' understanding of and capacity to develop, implement and monitor national sustainable development strategies. Participating countries will be determined in the initial phase of the project;

(f) Three country-specific interventions to strengthen the development of national sustainable development strategies, given national circumstances and particular stages of development planning. As the aim is to maximize impact by tailoring interventions to the specific needs and circumstances of each country, the composition and content of interventions will be determined upon commencement of the project.

J. Enhancing national capacities for the effective implementation of the United Nations development agenda and assessment of progress

Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($723,000)

Background

37. Five years after the Millennium Summit, effective and swift implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, had become more crucial than ever. World leaders at the 2005 World Summit agreed to adopt and implement more ambitious national development strategies.

38. For that purpose, the Summit envisaged a stronger Economic and Social Council system, with the Council and its regional and functional commissions operating as a unified system around the single framework of the broader United Nations development agenda. Therefore, it is important to enable developing countries to integrate the development agenda in a coherent manner in their national development strategies. In order to gear efforts towards the implementation of the development agenda and assess progress, the 2005 World Summit Outcome thus mandated the Economic and Social Council to hold annual ministerial reviews. In the follow-up to the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the General Assembly adopted resolution 61/16, in which it recommended that annual ministerial reviews provide an opportunity for countries to make voluntary national presentations assessing their progress towards the achievement of the development agenda. Those presentations will be based on their respective national development strategies and the implementation thereof.

39. To assist countries in the design of more ambitious national development strategies, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs developed six policy notes in 2006, in the strategic areas of (a) macroeconomics and growth, (b) finance, (c) public investment management, (d) technology, (e) social policy and (f) trade. Those policy notes concentrate on critical areas

where standard agency sourcebooks and development guidelines do not adequately reflect internationally agreed development goals. The project will use the policy notes as the basis for advisory support for governments to design equitable national development strategies.

40. The annual ministerial reviews are a mechanism that will assist countries in the implementation and assessment of national development strategie , help the international community to review and fine-tune development policies and put limited resources to best use in support of the internationally agreed development goals. More importantly, they will bring together all elements of the United Nations development agenda in a coherent and coordinated manner, geared towards avoiding duplication and waste of resources. Under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, the annual ministerial reviews will include voluntary national reviews, with countries giving an assessment of their progress or lack thereof. Any country undertaking a voluntary self-evaluation will be supported fully by the United Nations system organizations working at the country level, as appropriate.

41. The project will be executed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (lead entity), in collaboration with Resident Coordinators as and when necessary.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen capacity for the design and assessment of national development strategies.	**Summary budget** (Thousands of United States dollars)	
Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogrammes 1 (Economic and Social Council support and coordination), 3 (Social policy and development), 7 (Global development, trends, issues, policies), 8 (Public administration, finance and development) and 10 (Financing for development); Millennium Development Goals.	Consultants	368.6
	Travel	81.6
	Contractual services	23.0
	Operating expenses	9.8
	Workshops	240.0
	Total	**723.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	**Indicators of achievement**
(a) Enhanced capacity of national Governments to design, implement and assess effective national development strategies in accordance with internationally agreed development goals	(a) Website to be developed and made operational
(b) Governments better equipped for assessing progress towards the achievement of the United Nations development agenda as well as for preparing national implementation reports for national presentations at the annual ministerial reviews	(b) (i) Number of countries receiving advisory services for equitable national development strategies (ii) Increased number of countries seeking assistance for preparing national presentations at the annual ministerial reviews

Main activities

42. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Establishing a network of global partners/experts to support governments and to provide advisory services for their national development strategies, in coordination with regional

commissions. These will include experts in their individual capacities, NGOs, the private sector and academic and research institutions in developed and developing countries;

(b) Creating a dedicated website on national development strategies and national implementation reports based at the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, where materials would be available not only to the Economic and Social Council, but also to Member States, national administrations, local governments and civil society organizations. The Department's policy notes, latest innovations, cases, new strategies, national reviews and the network of global experts will be posted for universal access: Two workshops will be organized to identify latest innovations, case studies, new strategies and national reviews to be used;

(c) Providing on-demand advisory services to selected countries to support more equitable economic and social policies in their national development strategies, in accordance with the internationally agreed development goals; launching of four three-week missions, comprising teams of experts in critical development areas;

(d) Analysing trends that highlight progress or lack thereof by Member States in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals; organizing two workshops in support of those analyses.

K. Building institutional capacity and networks to work with young people for development in Africa

Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa ($590,000)

Background

43. Africa is a young continent. In many of its countries, young people make up a large percentage of the adult population. Study after study shows that investing in youth — for education, for jobs, for health — brings benefits to society as a whole. Furthermore, engaging young people is necessary for the achievement of the goals set forth in the New Partnership for Africa's Development and the Millennium Declaration. Yet even in cases where the importance of youth is reflected in regional and national policies, implementation is lacking. Ministries responsible for youth are universally underfunded and ill-equipped to address the complex challenges faced by young people, and youth organizations generally lack the capacity to effectively assist their peers.

44. The Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Division for Economic and Social Policy of ECA organized a workshop on youth development in Addis Ababa in June 2006. The workshop was attended by 33 participants from 24 African countries, who considered six issues of concern to youth in Africa: poverty; employment; education; health, including HIV/AIDS; participation; and armed conflict. Substantive issues and practical recommendations were discussed. Above all, participants noted the urgent need to reinforce national institutions working with and for young people. They called upon the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and ECA to assist in building capacity at the national level to facilitate effective youth development and involvement in national strategies.

45. In response, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs will undertake a project to create youth development resource teams that will operate initially in three anglophone and three francophone African countries. At the outset, each team will consist of eight people, drawn from sectors such as government, universities, communities and youth-led and youth-serving organizations. The project will supplement existing knowledge and capacities in the teams with

skill-building modules on topics essential to effective youth development. Over the course of the project, the teams will apply their skills towards the implementation of existing youth policies and later expand to create national knowledge networks for youth development.

46. The project will benefit primarily ministries responsible for youth development by increasing their capacity to implement existing policies for or related to young people. The project will be implemented by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ECA, United Nations Volunteers and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The Department of Economic and Social Affairs will provide coordination and substantive knowledge in the area of youth development. ECA will provide regional expertise, particularly on the integration of the New Partnership for Africa's Development agenda. Through its network of volunteers based at UNDP offices, United Nations Volunteers will provide in-country reference points for the national youth development resource teams. UNESCO will contribute its substantive experience in creating and sustaining research and knowledge networks.

47. In terms of non-United Nations stakeholders, the project will seek to cooperate with the International Organization of la Francophonie and the Commonwealth Secretariat, as both have regional training centres in Africa that undertake youth programming. Other entities that express interest as the project develops may also be involved.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the ability of Governments in Africa to implement regional and national youth policies by providing technical knowledge via collectives of existing and strengthened national expertise called youth development resource teams.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogramme 3 (Social policy and development); ECA subprogramme 10 (Social development); Millennium Development Goal 8.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	107.4
Travel	153.9
Contractual services	72.0
Equipment	16.9
Operating expenses	11.8
Workshops	228.0
Total	**590.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Establishment and training of six national youth development resource teams to work in partnership with government ministries on the implementation of selected regional and national youth policies	(a) Eight people per country who have received skill-building modules and have formed youth development resource teams capable of supporting youth ministries in policy implementation and programme development
(b) Enhanced capacity of national Governments to create and execute programmes and activities that serve to implement existing youth policies, using the expertise of the youth development resource teams	(b) (i) Increased number of Government ministries and other practitioners that are developing and/or implementing specific youth development projects or activities in support of regional and national policies

	(ii) Increased number of partnerships between Government ministries and youth-led and/or youth-servicing organizations in project countries
(c) Increased subregional cooperation to exchange information and expertise on youth development practices among six countries through expanded knowledge networks for youth development	(c) (i) Number of people per sector (government, academia, civil society) and per country who have been trained in the skill-building modules and who have joined the expanded network of knowledge for youth development
	(ii) Creation of a subregional network for youth development work and the dissemination of materials and resources that result from the project

Main activities

48. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Identifying the six countries to be involved in the project; working with the ministries of youth in those countries to identify the development practitioners (including youth leaders) for the core youth development resource teams; concurrently, developing the skill-building modules on youth development topics and arranging peer review of the modules;

(b) Organizing two subregional workshops (one for anglophone countries and one for francophone countries) to deliver the skill-building module and to facilitate the targeted selection of existing youth policies for implementation;

(c) Providing technical assistance through advisory services to the youth development resource teams and line ministries in the application of the skill-building modules towards the implementation of the selected policies for implementation;

(d) Organizing two follow-up subregional workshops with the youth development resource teams in order to review the application of the skill-building modules, revise materials accordingly and prepare for the further training of others by the resource teams to expand the knowledge networks for youth development;

(e) Supporting the youth development resource teams in organizing six subnational workshops to share their project implementation experience, to deliver the revised and adapted skill-building modules on youth development to new practitioners from various sectors (experts and novices) and to create a national knowledge network for future youth development work;

(f) Disseminating knowledge and materials from the project to the subregional network of six countries and to other countries interested in creating similar national knowledge networks for youth development.

L. Strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in the tourism sector of six developing countries in the Economic Community of West African States subregion

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa ($489,000)

Background

49. The tourism sector is of strategic importance to developing countries, capable of providing a country with a major source of employment, income and foreign-exchange earnings. The tourism sector also facilitates the development of entrepreneurship, particularly in terms of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as providing an opportunity for sustainable economic diversification. By combining two driving economic forces — information and communications technology (ICT) as a tool for development and tourism, the number one sector worldwide — it will be possible to bring forward growing economic opportunities for small and local actors in the tourism sector. Being an information-intensive industry, tourism should be supported by competitive collaboration information technology schemes. This could be addressed through the design of innovative networking models that would allow local stakeholders to better organize and promote themselves.

50. Such an approach would be consolidated through participative e-tourism strategies and by capacity-building and network-oriented activities, which should integrate all stakeholders in local empowerment and the dissemination and sharing of knowledge. The project will address the above-mentioned issues through a replicable networking method. Beneficiary countries will include six from the ECOWAS subregion, to be chosen from among Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo. The main target beneficiaries of the project are the government authorities responsible for designing and implementing the national e-strategy in this field and tourism-related institutions; small and medium-sized enterprises; and industry and sector associations and organizations, including tourist operators in the beneficiary countries and relevant NGOs.

51. The project will be implemented by UNCTAD, in collaboration with ECA and in cooperation with relevant international organizations — ECOWAS, the World Trade Organization regional representation for Africa — and partner institutions such as the University of Quebec in Montreal. Local expertise, when available, will provide institutional and local capacity-building and development.

Objective of the Organization: To contribute to local empowerment, inclusion and competitiveness of tourism stakeholders, through capacity-building and development activities, by innovative ICT-driven networking and models for the management and sharing of knowledge

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: UNCTAD subprogramme 4 (Services infrastructure for development, trade efficiency and human resources development); ECA subprogrammes 1 (Trade, finance and economic development) and 4 (Information and science and technology for development); Millennium Development Goals 1, 3, 7 and 8

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	31.5
Consultants	228.0
Travel	84.0
Contractual services	16.5
Operating expenses	6.0
Workshops	123.0
Total	**489.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding of decision makers (at the public and private levels) about the positive externalities of ICT tools for small and medium-sized tourism enterprises, through the design of a model for a knowledge management system and coherent, replicable training material for the benefit of all tourism stakeholders	(a) (i) Increased number of local stakeholders able to understand and leverage the transformative potential of ICT for developing a common and suitable e-solution framework and to assess the national e-tourism challenges and opportunities
	(ii) Increased number of local counterparts knowledgeable about technologies and business context and endowed with the right attitude and techniques to put solutions into practice
(b) Increased capacity and skills of the beneficiary countries in the preparation and implementation of innovative business models and ICT-related solutions, to enhance their competitiveness and allow them to add value to their economy	(b) (i) Enhanced ability and increased national capacity among public and private stakeholders to design a shared sustainable e-tourism development strategy dynamically involving all stakeholders; plan of action elaborated
	(ii) Increased number of institutions, companies and all kinds of stakeholders in the sector utilizing ICT in their current activities, such as those relating to knowledge management, branding, reservations and payments

(c) Improved competitiveness of tourism stakeholders through the fostering of competitive collaboration at the national and regional levels, through raising public- and private-sector partnerships	(c) (i) Enhanced ability of all stakeholders to work in close collaboration at the local, national and regional levels, through competitive collaboration-based networks (ii) Increased sustainable revenues for the tourism stakeholders of beneficiary countries

Main activities

52. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Development of a specialized and standardized training package and a replicable learning model that can be easily customized and improved according to beneficiaries' evolving needs;

(b) Identification of local counterparts for project implementation and participation in the network and the execution of beneficiary-country case studies;

(c) Organization of workshops for the public and private sectors in all beneficiary countries on national needs assessment strengthening ICT-related skills in the tourism sector by building on existing national capacities and an executive session to launch the network;

(d) Publication and dissemination of a consensus-based guiding manual on the findings of both the case studies and the needs and assessment workshops undertaken in each beneficiary country;

(e) Designing a relevant sustainable plan of action for the post-project period, including the further implementation of regional networks and the evaluation of the different networks' activities on a regular basis.

M. Support for decision-making and policy formulation on foreign direct investment in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the Monterrey Consensus

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($402,000)

Background

53. The majority of developing countries receive modest inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI). A number of them, particularly least developed countries, are not attracting the levels or the type of FDI that would help their economies integrate into global markets, benefit from the opportunities of the global trading and financial system and progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. This can be attributed partly to an inadequate business environment, poor institutional frameworks and lack of political stability, among other factors. The lack of relevant, reliable and timely information on FDI and transnational corporation activities, and insufficient capacity to analyse such information, is also part of the problem, preventing a number of developing countries (particularly least developed countries) from assessing accurately the impact of FDI and the activities of transnational corporations on their economies, making appropriate decisions and formulating development-oriented policies regarding FDI, and properly monitoring

their progress towards Millennium Development Goal 8. Such deficiencies are also an obstacle to achieving the aim of mobilizing international resources for development, in particular FDI, which was set out in the Monterrey Consensus.

54. The needs in this area have been recognized on several occasions in recent years. In the agreed recommendations of its tenth session (Geneva, 6-10 March 2006), the Commission on Investment Technology and Related Financial Issues specifically requested "the UNCTAD secretariat, in cooperation with other relevant organizations, and through development partners' support, to intensify technical cooperation in this field, including assisting developing countries in strengthening regional cooperation among relevant institutions; organizing meetings on FDI statistics and policy formulation on a regular basis; and assessing FDI impact on development" (TD/B/COM.2/71, para. 5). This project builds upon the recognition of the above-mentioned needs, seeking to intensify technical assistance activities and sustainability in the area of FDI statistics.

55. The project will be managed and implemented by UNCTAD, in association with regional organizations (such as ASEAN, CARICOM, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, other African groups and the Pacific Islands Forum).

Objective of the Organization: To build the capacity of developing countries to analyse and formulate policies on FDI and transnational corporations in the context of achieving their overall development goals.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: UNCTAD subprogramme 2 (Investment, enterprise and technology); Millennium Development Goal 8.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	60.0
Consultants	80.0
Travel	57.0
Operating expenses	30.0
Workshops	175.0
Total	**402.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of government officials to effectively assess the impact of FDI and activities of transnational corporations on their economy, monitor FDI-related development objectives and formulate appropriate development-oriented policies	(a) (i) Increased number of personnel (including government officials) in the beneficiary countries trained to analyse data on FDI and transnational corporations, assess the development impact of FDI and contribute to the formulation of development-oriented FDI policies (ii) Increased number of trained personnel able to collect reliable and updated statistics on FDI and transnational corporations according to internationally accepted recommendations and standards on FDI statistics (iii) Increased number of countries with coherent institutional frameworks for data collection and dissemination

(b) Enhanced capacity of institutions, investment promotion agencies and national statistics offices to establish and maintain knowledge management processes and structures	(b) (i) Establishment of a list of indicators on FDI and activities of transnational corporations that are relevant for impact assessment and policy formulation on FDI (ii) Establishment of regional networks and/or working parties on FDI and transnational corporations involving central banks, national statistical offices and investment promotion agencies to sustain the work in each beneficiary region

Main activities

56. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Preparation of investment profiles on the beneficiary countries and needs assessments;

(b) Establishment of the list of core indicators relevant for policymakers in the formulation of FDI-related policies;

(c) Establishment of a coherent institutional framework for the analysis and dissemination of statistics relating to FDI and transnational corporations in each beneficiary country;

(d) Organizing training courses in each beneficiary region on data analysis and internationally accepted standards for statistics on FDI and transnational corporations;

(e) Organizing national workshops to implement a data analysis and dissemination strategy and to develop the capabilities of countries to use and analyse data for policy-formulation purposes;

(f) Conducting surveys on FDI in beneficiary countries. A technical infrastructure will be designed to process survey data and disseminate the survey results.

N. Promoting subregional growth-oriented economic and trade policies towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Arab countries of West Asia and North Africa

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ($531,000)

Background

57. Economic growth in the Arab countries of West Asia and North Africa can benefit from cohesive policies that enhance the contribution of regional trade to the achievement of sustained economic growth, long-term structural transformation and the Millennium Development Goals. Regional integration, complemented by national reform initiatives, offers a stepping stone towards increased inward investment, transfer of technologies, improved terms of trade and trade expansion, increased investment in higher value-added production processes and industrial upgrading. Although regionalism has become a major component of the trade policy strategies of most countries, Arab countries continue to perform below expectations.

58. Lack of political stability aside, the low level of intraregional trade in Arab countries stems to a great extent from national and regional policies based on a trade-driven approach to development, rather than a development-driven approach to trade. This project seeks to support development and regional integration efforts in selected Arab countries in West Asia and North Africa, with emphasis on conflict economies, by promoting a development-driven approach to trade. This will be addressed through an innovative approach that involves the conceptualization of tailor-made programmes, analytical parameters, policy frameworks and institutional arrangements to build and strengthen the selected countries' institutional capacity in the area of economic and trade policy and facilitate the implementation of regional integration initiatives.

59. The project will be implemented by UNCTAD, in collaboration with ESCWA and ECA, and taking advantage of previous work done on the region.

Objective of the Organization: Enhanced contribution of regional trade to the achievement of sustained economic growth, long-term structural transformation and the Millennium Development Goals.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: UNCTAD subprogrammes 1 (Globalization, interdependence and development) and 3 (International trade); ECA subprogramme 1 (Trade, finance and economic development); ESCWA subprogramme 3 (Economic development and integration); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 8.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	72.0
Consultants	142.0
Travel	60.0
Contractual services	20.0
Operating expenses	9.0
Workshops	228.0
Total	**531.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved economic and trade policy-making capacities in Arab countries in North Africa and West Asia, drawing on internationally recognized standards of data and economic policy analysis	(a) (i) Policy recommendations, national development plans, expert papers and intraregional trade agreements, with a focus on war-torn economies, emanating from increased analysis of the role of intraregional trade and economic policies
	(ii) Presentations, discussions and feedback on expert analysis and the use of analytical and statistical methods, contributing to improved understanding of the role of intraregional trade in economic growth and development in war-torn economies
(b) Increased production and utilization of international statistical methods and standards in the economic and trade policy-making processes of selected countries to address the issues of growth and regional integration, with emphasis on conflict (war-torn) economies	(b) (i) Increased number of national statistical offices using standard statistical techniques and contributing to the analysis on regional integration and economic growth

	(ii) Increased analytical capacity of statistical offices in the area of growth and regional integration and increased cooperation and networking among institutions engaged in promoting intraregional trade and agencies involved in the provision of trade statistics

Main activities

60. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Preparing background information notes, policy papers and training materials on the development-driven approach to trade; regional integration of war-torn economies; compilation of trade statistics and the use of statistical methods in trade, such as input-output analysis; and the use of trade statistics for informing economic policy decisions;

(b) Organizing three regional training workshops for policymakers, experts and staff of national statistical offices to improve the technical capabilities of countries in the area of economic and trade policymaking, and the preparation and use of trade statistics for informing policy decisions;

(c) Convening a regional expert group meeting on the use and role of trade data and statistical methodologies, such as input-output analysis, for economic policy analysis. The meeting will also provide a forum for a dialogue among the countries of the region to identify common policy priority areas;

(d) Supporting networking efforts among institutions involved in promoting intraregional trade and regional integration. This includes exploring formal and informal mechanisms for sharing trade-related statistics and information among experts in their respective fields, in addition to facilitating their access to information on websites;

(e) Providing advisory services to national and regional specialized research institutions, policymakers, national statistical agencies and statistical departments of customs agencies to assist them in (i) the collection, compilation and dissemination of trade-related statistics using internationally accepted statistical methods and (ii) the use of trade-related statistics for informed decisions on trade and economic policy at the national and regional levels.

O. Enhancing effective participation of developing countries in dynamic and new sectors of international trade

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($530,000)

Background

61. Development gains from international trade, and the use of trade as a genuine engine of growth, development and poverty reduction, may be achieved through the participation of developing countries in dynamic and new sectors of world trade. Such sectors include manufacturing (such as electronics and electrical products), commodities and alternative energy-based products (such as biofuels), and information technology-enabled services. By establishing new production and export capacities in these technologically advanced sectors, developing countries, especially least developed countries, can create new market opportunities regionally and globally and thus achieve

substantial new development-oriented outcomes; supply capacity of more technologically advanced products; domestic value added of exports; productivity and competitiveness; energy security and efficiency; and employment, quality of jobs and better vocational education.

62. Over the last 20 years, a clear trend has emerged towards much more pronounced growth rates for the 40 most dynamic sectors in world exports (e.g., electronics, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, automotive parts, certain textiles and clothing items, biofuels and outsourcing of services), which accounted for over 40 per cent of the value of world exports in 2005. As a group, these dynamic sectors grew at an average rate of 12 per cent annually over this period. Many of these sectors are based on new technologies with high value added. A number of developing countries have succeeded in entering these sectors, with some deepening their participation and others capturing only limited gains in terms of domestic value added. Many other developing countries, especially least developed countries, continued to specialize, in large part, in sectors that were among the least dynamic, with the lowest domestic value added and thus little innovation. A key challenge is to package the existing positive experiences and related knowledge of successful developing countries into useable information and capacity-building activities that can be shared with other developing countries to stimulate innovation by investment, production and trade in new products and services. Furthermore, the setting up of related information (knowledge) networks involving Governments, industries and civil-society stakeholders becomes a critical step for promoting developing countries' participation in new and dynamic sectors of world trade.

63. The project builds upon lessons learned from the UNCTAD intergovernmental reviews and specific requests from member States. It is also based on the positive experience gained as a result of a partnership established between UNCTAD and the private sector to enhance new supply capacities of Southern African countries in the electrical sector. The project will strengthen new supply capacities of several developing countries by using innovative approaches to development and trade and organizational learning and information-sharing, thus making it a compelling business case. Existing electronic platforms, such as the UNCTAD Infocom and Infoshare platforms and WITS/TRAINS databases, will be adapted to offer individual developing countries an effective tool to monitor and analyse new and dynamic sectors of world trade. The project will be executed by UNCTAD, in collaboration with Governments, UNDP and other United Nations agencies, and selected private-sector entities. The focus will be on two or three subregions or countries in each of the developing regions (Africa, Asia and Latin America) and on three indicative sectors: electronics and electrical products, biofuels and information technology-enabled services.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen, through innovation, networking, information-sharing, capacity-building and the effective participation of developing countries in selected dynamic and new sectors of international trade.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: UNCTAD subprogramme 3 (International trade); Millennium Developments Goals 1 and 8.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	50.0
Consultants	104.0
Travel	45.0
Operating expenses	41.0
Study tours	90.0
Workshops	200.0
Total	**530.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased understanding and dissemination of developing countries' acquired knowledge and successful experiences to build new capacities for production and exports of dynamic and new products and services	(a) Increased validation by beneficiary Governments of proposed measures (recommendations) suggested by the feasibility studies and public-private dialogue (for at least two indicative dynamic and new sectors)
(b) Adoption of national/regional strategies to improve competitive supply capacity, exports, investment, market support conditions and trade facilitation measures for individual sectors	(b) Increased number of proposed measures (recommendations) implemented in their policymaking processes and knowledge/information management (involving at least two indicative dynamic and new sectors)
(c) Establishment of effective public-private knowledge networks and partnerships to implement national/regional strategies to enhance participation of developing countries in dynamic and new sectors of world trade	(c) Increased number of knowledge and information networks, training packages (modules) and public-private partnerships (also containing measures to sustain such partnerships) for identifying, capturing, recording and disseminating good practices and lessons learned (for at least two indicative dynamic and new sectors)
(d) Development of mechanisms to sustain networks and partnerships	(d) Increased number of regular interactions involving the networks and partnerships created

Main activities

64. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Conducting and disseminating feasibility (diagnostic) studies, including training packages (modules) to assess the economic viability of developing countries to embark on production and trade in specific dynamic and new sectors;

(b) Organizing national/regional workshops (conferences) to provide training, validate assessment studies and establish knowledge- and information-sharing networks;

(c) Providing follow-up technical support and necessary training to Governments and the private sector in the preparation of implementation strategies and related regulatory legal and policy frameworks that ensure coherence and cost-effective results;

(d) Promoting sustained dialogue among relevant stakeholders based on local expertise to coordinate public and private objectives and activities, leading to the facilitation and establishment of sustainable trade/investment/production partnerships in selected dynamic and new sectors;

(e) Organizing study tours to draw lessons from successful experiences and best practices involving trade, investment and production in specific dynamic and new sectors;

(f) Strengthening logistical and technical bases of beneficiary Governments and the private sector by developing knowledge collections and databases on the web.

P. Building productive capacities in developing countries to enhance their participation in global supply chains

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ($450,000)

Background

65. Building productive capacity and enhancing international competitiveness is crucial for the economic growth of developing countries. Internationalization is one of the essential ways to strengthen the competitiveness of firms in developing countries. It includes strategies based on globally integrated forms of productive networks, such as linkages between transnational corporations and small and medium-sized enterprises, clusters and global value chains.

66. This proposal is aimed at enhancing the supply capacity of developing countries through enterprise internationalization, particularly in respect of small and medium-sized enterprises. The role of small and medium-sized enterprises and their contribution to economic growth, social cohesion, employment and local development is recognized by Governments worldwide. Therefore, strengthening the competitiveness of domestic small and medium-sized enterprises is vital for developing countries to benefit fully from international trade and investment opportunities and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. UNCTAD, at its eleventh session (São Paulo, 2004), recognized that one of the key objectives of its work was to assist developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in designing and implementing active policies for building productive capacity and international competitiveness, based on an integrated treatment of investment, corporate responsibility, technology transfer and innovation, enterprise development and business facilitation (including transportation and information and communications technology), competitiveness, diversification and export capacity, to sustain a high level of growth and promote sustainable development.

67. The proposed project will combine advisory services and exchange of best practices on the internationalization of small and medium-sized enterprises for effective policy change and the delivery of technical assistance for the establishment of business linkages. In particular, the project will build on the activities of UNCTAD, as described below.

68. Under the memorandum of understanding with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), UNCTAD collaborates with the OECD Working Party on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Entrepreneurship on enhancing the role of small and medium-sized enterprises in global value chains. UNCTAD has also developed extensive expertise in the area of business linkages. Expertise gleaned from first-hand experience in assisting countries has been consolidated in an UNCTAD roster of good practices. On the basis of this framework, the project will develop business linkage capacity, identifying demand, targeting quality FDI and matching potential business partners in selected countries.

69. The project will be executed by UNCTAD, in collaboration with Governments, UNDP, other United Nations agencies and selected private sector institutions. It will focus on three subregions: West Africa, the ASEAN subregion and the Common Market of the South subregion. Selected pilot projects will also be implemented in five countries, including at least three least developed countries.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the participation of developing countries in global supply chains through the adoption of policies and support measures for enhancing the international competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in developing countries and their integration into the world economy through business linkages and outward investment.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: UNCTAD subprogramme 2 (Investment, enterprise and technology); Millennium Development Goal 8.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	32.0
Consultants	172.0
Travel	35.0
Contractual services	20.0
Operating expenses	14.9
Study tours	40.5
Workshops	135.6
Total	**450.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of policymakers to initiate small and medium-sized enterprise development programmes facilitating the formulation of policies that will improve the business environment	(a) Validation by beneficiaries of proposed policy measures and adoption of changes in the overall business environment and support programmes specifically for small and medium-sized enterprises
(b) Enhanced capacity of stakeholders to share expertise and best practices through subregional networks, particularly through existing Empretec centres	(b) Increased number of sustainable knowledge and information networks and public and private partnerships for enterprise development
(c) Enhanced business linkages, particularly in conducting diagnoses of needs and constraints of small and medium-sized enterprises for entering into linkages with transnational corporations	(c) Number of business linkages created and consolidated at the country level

Main activities

70. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) At the national level, development of five business linkage programmes (including in three least developed countries) providing assistance to selected institutions for building linkages into their policy frameworks and technical advice for the selection of participating suppliers and transnational corporations;

(b) Convening three regional workshops (Asia and the Pacific, sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean) to facilitate sharing of best practices on enterprise internationalization policies;

(c) Establishing an interactive Internet-based toolkit to facilitate exchange of experiences and interaction among small and medium-sized enterprise development stakeholders and support the continuous dissemination of best practices in the area of enterprise internationalization.

Q. Building national capacities for biodiversity indicators and reporting in Southern and Eastern Africa

United Nations Environment Programme, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa ($504,000)

Background

71. Millennium Development Goal 7 and the 2010 biodiversity target require the definition of targets, policies and strategies at the national level for their implementation. A key requirement for this process is the availability of indicators of biodiversity and environmental resources. A number of indicators have been identified, or are in development, for reporting on the 2010 biodiversity target, some of which are the same as or complementary to indicators for Millennium Development Goal 7. These include measurements of the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem goods and services, which form a basis for poverty reduction.

72. In most countries of SADC and the East African Community, however, the capacity for calculating biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators is very limited. The successful production and use of such indicators relies not only on the availability of data, but also the technical capacity to interpret and communicate the data in a policy-relevant form to a variety of stakeholders. Some of the concepts and methods involved in producing the 2010 biodiversity target indicators and assessment of ecosystem services are new and require further promotion for countries to be able to utilize them. This project will assist national governmental, academic and NGO groups to adapt global indicators to national needs and utilize existing indicators in international reporting on biodiversity and environmental sustainability. The project will build on the results of the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the Biodiversity Indicators for National Use project and follow-up work to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, in all of which the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) World Conservation Monitoring Centre has a central role.

73. The project will be implemented by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in coordination with the UNEP Division of Early Warning and Assessment, the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, the Convention on Biological Diversity secretariat and the Convention on Biological Diversity national focal points in each country. In addition, the World Conservation Monitoring Centre will continue to work closely with the UNDP global office responsible for assisting countries in reporting on the Millennium Development Goals, including building on the work of the UNEP-UNDP Poverty-Environment Initiative, to strengthen the indicators available for use in mainstreaming environment into national development plans and poverty reduction strategy papers. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre will develop the project with UNDP country offices in the region to incorporate their capacity-development experience and networks with national institutions. The World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the Division of Early Warning and Assessment will also seek active collaboration with ECA for support and dissemination of the project, including its subprogramme on environment and sustainable development and the African Centre for Statistics.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of Governments in Southern and Eastern Africa to develop and use indicators of biodiversity and ecosystem services in support of national policies, including poverty reduction strategy papers and international reporting on Millennium Development Goal 7, on environmental sustainability, and the 2010 biodiversity target.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: UNEP subprogramme 3 (Policy implementation); ECA subprogrammes 8 (Development planning and administration) and 9 (Statistics); Millennium Development Goal 7.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	36.0
Contractual services	144.0
Operating expenses	6.0
Study tours	42.0
Workshops	276.0
Total	**504.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased technical capacity and partnerships of national governmental, academic and NGO groups to develop and use indicators of biodiversity and ecosystem services, focused on policy formulation and monitoring	(a) Improved availability at the national level of indicators on the status, use and protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services and analysis of this information to support national policymaking and implementation
(b) Improved capacity to use indicators of biodiversity and ecosystem services in national and international reporting to demonstrate progress in achieving nationally and internationally adopted targets	(b) National reports to government agencies, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations contain additional and more comprehensive indicators of biodiversity and ecosystem services, with policy-relevant interpretation of the results

Main activities

74. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Organizing six training and lesson-learning workshops for government, academic and NGO staff involved in the delivery of national-level biodiversity indicators and assessments of ecosystem services;

(b) Provision of online (web-based) and in-country technical support to national agencies in the calculation and interpretation of indicators and ecosystem service assessments, according to specific needs;

(c) Promoting peer-to-peer exchange of experience and support between professionals in the calculation and communication of indicators, through access to web-based networks for sharing information and experience, and for identifying and locating those with experience to share. The sharing of information will also be facilitated by the production and dissemination of case-study papers;

(d) Organizing intraregional study tours to disseminate the diverse experiences of agencies with expertise in different types of biodiversity and ecosystem service indicators and to create opportunities for staff from less experienced agencies to learn and be supported in additional technical and organizational aspects of indicator production.

R. Strengthening national institutional capacities for mainstreaming multilateral environmental agreements into national poverty reduction strategies

United Nations Environment Programme ($661,000)

Background

75. In 2005, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment reported that 15 of the 24 critical ecosystem services it used were in decline. The 1,360 world scientific experts who participated in the Assessment also concluded that this decline in ecosystem services would prevent many developing countries from achieving the Millennium Development Goals. It was also noted in the Assessment reports that Millennium Development Goal 7, which focused on environmental sustainability, was also critical for the achievement of many of the other Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goals 1 and 4. However, a recent review by UNDP revealed that a majority of the Millennium Development Goal plans developed by countries showed a poor record of integrating the issue of the environment in their strategies. Numerous initiatives are currently under way to address this missing link. However, one dimension that offers a potentially strong entry point for mainstreaming the environment lies with the multilateral environmental agreements, which are in essence legally binding instruments agreed to by countries. However, due to the limitations of financial resources and human capacity, many countries are having difficulty implementing the obligations outlined in their multilateral environmental agreement obligations. There is an opportunity here to reap a double dividend: improving the environmental record and contributing to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular in relation to the reduction of extreme poverty.

76. This project is aimed at building the knowledge base of selected developing countries on the links between ecosystem services, which falls under the multilateral environmental agreements and the Millennium Development Goals, and ways and means of developing instruments that will enable the mainstreaming of the multilateral environmental agreements in Millennium Development Goal and poverty reduction strategies. The project builds upon recommendations from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment that highlight the need for improved knowledge and capacity for undertaking integrated assessment at the national and local levels.

77. The project will be executed by UNEP, in collaboration with UNDP, the United Nations University, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), ASEAN and the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen capacity at the national and local levels on mainstreaming multilateral environmental agreement objectives into Millennium Development Goals and national poverty reduction strategies.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: UNEP subprogramme 2 (Environmental law and conventions).

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	90.8
Expert group	42.0
Travel	40.0
Contractual services	358.2
Study tours	30.0
Workshops	100.0
Total	**661.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved understanding of policymakers who are involved in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and poverty reduction strategies on the links among ecosystem services, natural capital, economic development and human development, and their importance for achieving the multilateral environmental agreement obligations	(a) (i) Increased number of references to links between ecosystem services and Millennium Development Goals in multilateral environmental agreement documents of conferences of parties to multilateral environmental agreements (ii) Increased number of references of links between ecosystem services and Millennium Development Goals in macroeconomic planning frameworks
(b) Improved capacities at the national level in mainstreaming multilateral environmental agreement obligations within national sustainable development plans and poverty reduction strategies	(b) (i) Increased number of national and local-level planning personnel able to carry out integrated assessments linking ecosystem services, natural capital, economic development and Millennium Development Goals (ii) Increased number of references to environmental issues in national sustainable development plans and poverty reduction strategies
(c) Improved awareness of policymakers on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and its recommendations for effective environmental and development policymaking, and their capacities to integrate them into actual policymaking processes	(c) Increased number of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment policy recommendations being adopted by policymakers at the national level in their environmental and development policymaking processes

Main activities

78. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Developing an international expert group to oversee the implementation of the project and ensure quality of outputs and to provide technical expertise and mentoring of national experts;

(b) Revising and adapting existing training modules on integrated assessments and the development of mainstreaming instruments within national sustainable development plans and poverty reduction strategies, taking into account local socio-economic, political and cultural conditions;

(c) Forming a national network of experts to share and learn from one another's experience. The network will be formed and maintained through online discussion forums and mailing lists that are complemented by regional study tours;

(d) Organizing three training workshops for staff from environment and planning ministry staff, academics and NGOs, among others, from two developing countries, one in sub-Saharan

Africa (e.g., Kenya) and the other in South-East Asia (e.g., Indonesia) in conducting integrated assessments. Those participants will be invited to the final workshop;

(e) Case-study analysis in which a learning-by-doing exercise in integrated assessment and the development of mainstreaming instruments is carried out. The case studies (one in sub-Saharan Africa, possibly in Kenya, and the other in South-East Asia, possibly in Indonesia) will be undertaken in a country-driven manner, led by the Governments of the respective countries, with facilitation and technical assistance from UNEP and local consultants from those countries;

(f) Development of publications, including training modules, case-study reports, brochures and a document of policy recommendations.

S. Global energy network for urban settlements: promoting energy access for the urban poor worldwide

United Nations Human Settlements Programme ($445,000)

Background

79. One third (2 billion people) of the global population has no access to basic energy services. Most of them (1.6 billion people) live in developing countries, mainly in South Asia and in sub-Saharan Africa. They depend on inefficient biomass fuels that have detrimental effects on air quality and health. About three quarters of the world's commercial energy is consumed in urban areas, and many of the people in direst need of access to modern energy systems are located in rapidly growing informal urban settlements throughout the developing world. In-migration into cities has created very dense informal settlements (slums) where 30 to 40 per cent of the urban population lives in abject poverty and dismal conditions. Despite such numbers, the energy needs of poor urban households, and particularly of women, in developing countries have not been properly addressed, as development efforts have focused intensely on the rural poor. Cities in developing countries require a rapid increase in energy production and consumption to accelerate economic development, alleviate poverty and meet the basic needs of their populations. The current political/environmental agenda in many of those countries is still fragile, and different challenges constrain the capacity of city managers to conceive and design appropriate programmes and policies in support of energy access for poor urban settlements. In addition, current patterns of energy production, distribution and utilization are unsustainable, and there are wide disparities in the level of energy consumption within and between developed and developing countries.

80. The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), through the Energy and Transport Unit of its Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, supports the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, which acknowledges the importance of energy in promoting sustainable development in human settlements. The proposed project will establish a global energy network for urban settlements, a dynamic new partnership and collaboration with multiple institutions and stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, governmental and non-governmental organizations, grass-roots groups and national and international development agencies, working in the urban energy sector. The network will be aimed at encouraging and supporting the implementation and replication of proper energy programmes and projects for the urban poor worldwide, through the exchange and dissemination of best practices and technologies, information and awareness creation, advocacy, tool development, knowledge management and policy formulation, as well as direct capacity-building at the local level and with a view to networks of cities. Among other outputs of the network, an expert-group meeting will be held in

Nairobi to discuss and exchange different experiences on access to energy services for the urban poor. Additionally, a knowledge-management toolkit based on worldwide best practices will be developed for the design and implementation of urban energy policy, projects and programmes. The project will contribute to meeting the Millennium Development Goals and will seek to establish links with similar energy initiatives within the United Nations system, the upcoming fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the continued implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the energy provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

81. The project will be coordinated by UN-Habitat, and during its implementation prominent institutions and stakeholders, including UNDP, will be approached and involved in the network's development and in follow-up activities.

Objective of the Organization: To encourage and support the design and implementation of energy-access programmes and projects for the urban poor worldwide through the exchange and dissemination of best practices and technologies, awareness creation, advocacy, tools development, knowledge management and capacity-building.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: UN-Habitat subprogramme 1 (Shelter and sustainable human settlements development).

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	103.5
Travel	50.0
Contractual services	95.0
Operating expenses	74.0
Workshops	122.5
Total	**445.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased levels of knowledge and awareness on issues the urban poor face in terms of having access to clean modern energy, particularly those residing in slums or informal settlements in cities of developing countries, among policymakers and municipal managers and within communities themselves	(a) Increased commitment and demonstrated interest from at least three main anchor institutions in each region within the global energy network for urban settlements in the application of new and improved urban energy-access policies at the regional and local levels
(b) Improved capabilities (capacity development on multiple levels) within the urban energy community of practice at the local and regional levels, as well as strengthened South-South collaboration and North-South exchange of knowledge, expertise and collaboration on energy issues for the urban poor	(b) (i) Sustainable external donor and project support received both for the network itself and for programmes and projects the network members support (ii) At least six cities (two in each of three regions) with pilot urban energy-access projects and completed feasibility studies

(c) A more complete recognition within the United Nations system and within the international development and donor community of the unique characteristics and elements of energy access for the urban poor, in terms of resource requirements and also for the creation and application of knowledge for local authorities and communities	(c) (i) Increased number of local authorities active in the area of improving access to clean modern energy services for the urban poor, particularly those residing in slums or informal settlements (ii) Increased sharing of global best practices relating to energy access for the urban poor through a global base of knowledge on policy practice experience to adapt to specific national and regional circumstances

Main activities

82. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Convening an expert group meeting with Habitat Agenda partners and global urban energy experts and professionals, to exchange best practices, information, lessons learned and studies relating to energy access for the urban poor;

(b) Establishment of the global energy network for urban settlements steering committee, which will guide the initial and follow-up implementation process. It will coordinate all the activities of the network, especially with regard to information collection and dissemination; capacity-building coordination; stakeholder mobilization; and policy-level engagement at the national, regional and international levels;

(c) Convening a steering committee meeting to prepare a comprehensive operating plan and near-term and medium-term objectives of the global energy network for urban settlements. The plan will be used to attract additional financial commitments from donors;

(d) Creating the global energy network for urban settlements website and web log to share information and experiences on urban energy practices;

(e) Organizing an annual meeting of the broader network partners during major UN-Habitat global events (e.g. meetings of the Governing Council and the World Urban Forum). Members will review best practices worldwide on urban energy issues and will take decisions concerning the operations of the network, such as overseeing collaborative research studies and facilitating communication among the members;

(f) Preparation of a knowledge-management toolkit for the design and implementation of urban energy policy, projects and programmes.

T. Building capacity for localizing the Millennium Development Goals at the urban and municipal levels in Latin America and the Caribbean

United Nations Human Settlements Programme, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ($381,000)

Background

83. The Millennium Development Goals have been internationally accepted as a common global development framework with a focus on the poor. Yet there is a recurrent perception of the

Millennium Development Goals as a top-down process that has so far excluded the involvement of local authorities and other local stakeholders. It has been indicated that the lack of appropriate civil society participation is one of the reasons for insufficient awareness about the Millennium Development Goals and therefore insufficient progress in achieving their targets. It is clear from experience that the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals has to rely on localized action, particularly in the Latin American and the Caribbean region, where to a large extent decentralization processes transferred to local authorities the responsibility for social and economic interventions at the local level.

84. UN-Habitat, in partnership with the United Cities and Local Governments organization and other United Nations agencies, has developed a pilot programme for localizing the Millennium Development Goals in seven cities of the Latin American and the Caribbean region. The programme, coordinated by the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, supports the preparation of local action plans to meet the Millennium Development Goals in a process led by local authorities and with the participation of relevant stakeholders. Initial findings of the programme confirm the need to strengthen the capacity of local authorities and to create sustainable partnerships at the local level in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean is currently conducting a survey of the training and capacity-building demands of local authorities in the region for efficient planning and management of social programmes, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals. The results of the survey of over 100 local authorities will enable the identification of priority demands in terms of themes, skills and competencies and target groups, as well as the type of material and media best suited to match the diversity of conditions prevailing among local authorities in the region.

Objective of the Organization: To increase the knowledge and capacity of local authorities and stakeholders to develop, implement and assess urban and municipal policies and programmes, particularly in relation to social and economic interventions at the local level and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: UN-Habitat subprogrammes 1 (Shelter and sustainable human settlements development) and 2 (Monitoring the Habitat agenda); ECLAC subprogrammes 3 (Macroeconomic policies and growth) and 4 (Social development and equity).

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	143.0
Travel	32.5
Contractual services	95.0
Operating expenses	30.5
Workshops	80.0
Total	**381.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased levels of knowledge and awareness of how best to use the municipal mandate to formulate and implement local policies that directly contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals	(a) Increased number of municipalities with training and capacity for the development, implementation and assessment/monitoring of urban and municipal policies and programmes, particularly in relation to social and economic interventions for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

(b) Improved organization within municipal sectoral and territorial management in order to adopt local policies that contribute directly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, through operational documents, according to the institutional framework of each local authority. This accomplishment involves the formulation of local Millennium Development Goal profiles and action plans in selected cities across the region	(b) (i) Increased number of academic/training institutions that incorporate in a sustainable manner modules to strengthen local authorities' action regarding awareness in respect of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (ii) At least 12 cities with local Millennium Development Goal profiles and action plans adopted
(c) Establishment of a regional networking facility to exchange experiences, best practices and policies on the implementation of urban policies and programmes, particularly in relation to social and economic interventions and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, established and hosted by a regional municipal association	(c) (i) Increased number of municipal associations active in the dissemination of tools for municipal planning and management regarding the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (ii) Increased sharing of experiences and good policies among local authorities in the Latin American and the Caribbean region

Main activities

85. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Selection of countries for the implementation of local Millennium Development Goal processes in coordination with international, regional and national partners, including associations of local authorities;

(b) Formalizing initial agreements with main partners for the launching of the programme in each country (municipal associations, national institutions, academic/training partners, key municipalities, etc.);

(c) Identification of municipal associations, academic institutions and experts in the use and management of urban indicators from the public sector; organization of a working group to steer the initiative;

(d) Systematization of available material on local Millennium Development Goal activities, municipal competencies and management, urban indicators and monitoring systems, as well as elaboration of training tools and manuals;

(e) Design and production of training modules to be delivered by several media according to conditions in the various types of municipalities to be covered by the programme;

(f) Meeting of the working group to review the preparation of the tools, manuals and various training modules. Dissemination of training materials;

(g) Conducting field tests of training and capacity-building material in partnership with municipal associations and academic institutions in cities conducting local Millennium Development Goal processes. The results of the field tests will be used to adjust the material for final publication and wide dissemination;

(h) Conducting local Millennium Development Goal processes in selected cities with active city consultations, including the production of local Millennium Development Goal profiles and action plans, their harmonization with other urban/municipal management instruments and the establishment of monitoring systems, including observatories, as appropriate;

(i) Organizing national workshops for the training of trainers;

(j) Creation of a networking facility for cities, institutions and municipal associations, by strengthening the operational capacity of an existing platform on knowledge management. Creation of a website with links to existing sites on local Millennium Development Goal activities.

U. Strengthening national criminal justice capacity to disrupt key human trafficking routes in Egypt, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ($531,000)

Background

86. Trafficking in persons is an abominable crime, violating the basic human rights of hundreds of thousands of people in the world. Transnational criminal networks conduct trafficking in persons by taking advantage of the safest, most convenient and most lucrative routes available.

87. Specific routes used to traffic persons into Western Asia, one of the main destination regions in the world, have been identified (see *Trafficking in Persons: Global Patterns*, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, April 2006). Victims, especially women trafficked for sexual exploitation, are trafficked from the Central Asian area of the Commonwealth of Independent States, including via Kyrgyzstan, to the Arabian peninsula or the Mediterranean coast of the Middle East. Further, males trafficked for various forms of labour exploitation are trafficked from the Indian sub-continent and South-East Asia, via Pakistan, to Western Asia. Finally, African victims are trafficked to the Middle East via Egypt. Three key countries — Egypt, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan — on the identified routes appear to be significant transit points for victims trafficked into the Western Asia region. At the same time, the level of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in those countries appears to be very low for the extent of trafficking through them.

88. The lack of investigations, prosecutions and convictions in countries where trafficking in persons is reported by international organizations, non-governmental organizations and police forces signals a need for strengthening the capacity of law enforcement agencies, border control, prosecutors and the judiciary to combat trafficking in persons.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the capacity of the national criminal justice system in three selected countries (Egypt, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan) to investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers in persons.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime subprogramme 3 (Technical assistance and advice).

Summary budget
(Thousands of US dollars)

Consultants	141.0
Expert groups	15.0
Travel	27.0
Contractual services	86.0
Workshops	262.0
Total	**531.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased knowledge and awareness of the current situation of trafficking in persons, as well as the anti-trafficking structure and existing capacity in those countries	(a) National databases established, including information regarding legislation, criminal justice statistics, opinions, experiences and perceptions of a representative sample of criminal justice operators
(b) Identification of gaps in the national criminal justice systems and how they might be addressed through a detailed list of recommendations to be proposed to the national authorities	(b) Assessment reports published on the trafficking situation and the existing anti-trafficking structure in the participating countries, including detailed recommendations to strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice systems to combat trafficking
(c) Increased level of knowledge and skills for criminal justice officers on detecting, investigating, prosecuting and convicting traffickers	(c) National action plans to strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system in force (operational/effective); training sessions for judges, prosecutors, police and other law enforcement agencies and border management and control officials to improve the countries' ability to detect trafficking in persons and to combat (investigate, prosecute and convict) traffickers

Main activities

89. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Assessment of the national legislation and criminal justice statistics on trafficking in persons and related matters in each of the participating countries; survey assessments on the patterns and extent of trafficking; and an assessment of the current knowledge, capacity, attitude and approach of the police forces, prosecutors and judiciary in the countries provided assistance regarding trafficking in persons;

(b) Preparation of national reports based on the assessments, analysing the information collected, identifying weaknesses in the implementation of the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and providing a list of recommendations for enhancing the capacity of the national criminal justice system to investigate, prosecute and convict traffickers;

(c) Organizing national meetings with the major criminal justice stakeholders and appropriate regional organizations (such as ESCWA) to present the results of the assessments and to discuss and develop national action plans to give effect to the recommendations identified in the reports;

(d) Publication of the reports, including the national action plans;

(e) Providing support and assistance to national authorities in the implementation of their national action plans, including training and awareness-raising activities in accordance with the content of the national action plans; follow-up with the donor community for a second phase to evaluate the impact of the action plans and the possible expansion/continuation of technical assistance.

V. Water quality in Central Asia

Economic Commission for Europe, in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations Environment Programme ($443,000)

Background

90. The countries in Central Asia are dependent on each other with regard to important transboundary rivers, such as the Syrdarya, Amudarya, Chutalas and Zeravshan. Water quality is an important aspect of integrated water resources management that has not been seriously addressed either at the national or the regional level. Downstream on the Syrdarya and Amudarya, the low quality of water has serious negative health effects. Management of water quality is highly inefficient and insufficient at both the national and the regional level, as water quantity and its allocation have been more the centre of the attention. There is a need to improve national policies and regional cooperation with the ultimate aim of improving water quality.

91. At a meeting co-sponsored by ECE in Almaty in spring 2005 to discuss this issue, directions were given for future work. An obvious first step is to establish common water-quality parameters for measurement, exchange of information between countries and joint assessment. The development of more efficient national policies that include the standards and principles applied in permitting environmentally harmful activities is another key aspect. As the monitoring of water quality has seriously deteriorated since the beginning of the 1990s, it is a challenge to rebuild a reasonable monitoring network. This project outline focuses on the water-quality aspect of integrated water resources management from a transboundary perspective.

92. The above-mentioned meeting was conducted in collaboration with the Global Water Partnership, which has an interest in future work. Moreover, UNEP is preparing for an assessment of environmental issues on the Amudarya, which will also deal with water-quality issues. ECE has ongoing contacts with UNEP on collaboration in that assessment. UNDP, with its planned work on integrated water resources management in some Central Asia countries, will be another important partner. In this context, ECE is in contact with UNDP Bratislava. For the implementation of the project, it will be important to continue collaboration with the Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, which arranged the Almaty meeting, as well as the Scientific Information Centre of the Inter-State Commission for Water Coordination, a partner of ECE and UNEP in the implementation of the Central Asia Regional Water Information Base project (see http://www.cawater-info.net/index_e.htm).

93. It is proposed that the project be implemented in collaboration with the following partners: ESCAP, UNEP, UNDP, the Global Water Partnership, the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea and the Scientific Information Centre of the Inter-State Commission for Water Coordination.

Objective of the Organization: To contribute to the development of efficient and coordinated national policies with regard to water-quality aspects of integrated water resources management in Central Asia.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: ECE subprogramme 1 (Environment); ESCAP subprogramme 6 (Environment and sustainable development); UNEP subprogramme 3 (Policy implementation); Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 7.

Summary budget
(Thousands of US dollars)

General temporary assistance	22.6
Consultants	96.0
Travel	20.5
Contractual services	28.9
Equipment	85.0
Operating expenses	10.0
Workshops	180.0
Total	**443.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Agreed, step-by-step development of coordinated national policies on water-quality aspects of integrated water resources management. This means that the participating countries will agree on a common view on a policy for water quality and its implementation	(a) Guidelines on national policies for water-quality aspects of integrated water resources management formally agreed by participating countries
(b) Improved capacity among water experts and officials in the field of water-quality aspects of integrated water resources management	(b) Evaluations of participants in training seminars
(c) Improved monitoring, information exchange and joint assessment of water quality	(c) (i) Agreed guidelines for water-quality monitoring and exchange of information (ii) Joint assessments based on available data (iii) Records of exchange of monitoring results among participating countries

Main activities

94. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Establishment of a regional working group for water-quality aspects of integrated water resources management. The working group will include representatives of water and environmental authorities as well as NGOs and serve as the political backbone of the project;

(b) Development of guidelines for national policies on water-quality aspects of integrated water resources management. The guidelines will be based on ECE and European Union experiences and will be developed by the members of the regional working group in collaboration with international experts;

(c) Development and adaptation of training material. The above-mentioned guidelines will form the basis for the training material that is needed to train experts in the various countries;

(d) Organization of training seminars on water-quality aspects of integrated water management;

(e) Development of guidelines for water-quality monitoring and exchange of information. The guidelines will follow the guidelines for water-quality aspects, to make it possible to assess the results of policy changes in a similar manner in the countries sharing a water basin;

(f) Development of joint assessments based on available data. It is essential that the regional working group agree on how the situation with regard to water quality in transboundary watercourses can be described and measured;

(g) Implementation of pilot components of activity (e) above. In order to apply the guidelines and contribute to the assessments, certain measurements and needed equipment will be covered by the project.

W. Innovative financing mechanisms for new and renewable energy projects

Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($623,000)

Background

95. The African region is characterized by the coexistence of countries that produce oil and gas and countries that do not. Importing countries could benefit from the use of new and renewable energies that would assist them in better controlling their energy bills and reducing economic dependency on external factors. Furthermore, all countries need to face the challenges of environmental protection. Efforts to develop forward-looking energy policies could, in this context, contribute to the reduction of greenhouse effects caused by heavy reliance on oil. National policies supported by adequate norms, rules and regulations can assist African countries in better facing the scarcity and eventually the absence of oil resources in the medium to longer term.

96. However, there are differences between countries in terms of availability of and strategies to deal with renewable energies. Many Mediterranean countries have already explored and developed new projects and corresponding financial mechanisms in order to respond to rural electrification requirements, as well as the needs of urban populations, through the use of renewable energies. In the North African region, however, while a number of interesting projects have been initiated, most of them remain isolated actions that are not part of a global approach. Therefore, more needs to be done to support the elaboration of innovative national energy strategies and to scale up pilot projects so that they are fully integrated into national development plans.

97. In order to address this issue, this project will explore mechanisms for disseminating in North Africa the lessons learned from successful experiences. This will be based on a comparative study of the feasibility of existing and new technical and financial mechanisms for each country and each type of renewable energy. In the project, particular emphasis will be placed on capacity-building and the development of information and knowledge networks to effectively share lessons learned and enhance peer learning. The project will also be considered a first step in a broader programme that would address the needs of the other African subregions. The choice of North Africa as a starting point is justified mainly by the fact that most countries in the subregion are ready to consider a more systematic approach for the utilization of new and renewable energies.

98. The project will be executed by ECA. Some key partners, such as the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the regional commissions (ECE, ECLAC, ESCWA and ESCAP), the Arab Maghreb Union, the European Union and the African Development Bank, will be involved during the implementation of the project.

Objective of the Organization: Enhanced understanding and promotion of alternative sources of energy in North Africa.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogramme 4 (Sustainable development); ECA subprogramme 2 (Food security and sustainable development); Millennium Development Goals 5 and 8.

Summary budget
(Thousands of US dollars)

General temporary assistance	20.0
Consultants	65.0
Expert groups	180.0
Travel	83.0
Contractual services	85.0
Operating expenses	19.0
Workshops	171.0
Total	**623.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Improved awareness of new and renewable energies and integration of related activities into national development plans	(a) Increased number of renewable energy projects in North African countries
(b) Development and promotion of innovative financing mechanisms for new and renewable energy projects, including better knowledge of the different types of public-private partnership mechanisms, so that recommended actions can be implemented in a timely manner by North African States	(b) Increased number of requests for financing of new and renewable energy projects
(c) Strengthened and sustained capacity of the region in terms of new and renewable energy and their financing mechanisms to enable States to plan, implement and assess the impact of the use of new and renewable energies	(c) Increased information and knowledge network among countries, the regional economic communities and other organizations involved in the development agenda of North African countries
(d) Improved regional cooperation and information-sharing on new and renewable energies in order to harmonize policies and the choice of technical solutions and recommend measures to extend the project to other parts of the continent	(d) Increased exchange of information and expertise on new and renewable energies

Main activities

99. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Conducting studies on opportunities for new and renewable energy use. The studies will propose a set of recommendations on the development of adequate energy strategies and will be based on experiences in Africa and in other regions, such as Latin America, Asia and Europe;

(b) Organizing an expert-group meeting to validate the results of the study and define the way forward for implementing new and renewable energy projects in North Africa;

(c) Undertaking a study on financing modalities for new and renewable energy projects that will give rise to concrete recommendations on implementing the strategies identified as a result of (b) above;

(d) Organizing an expert-group meeting to validate the results of the study and initiate financing initiatives in support of the energy strategies designed;

(e) Conducting capacity-building seminars targeting the main stakeholders to be involved in national energy strategies and projects;

(f) Conducting an interregional seminar on new and renewable energies that brings together experts from different countries and regions to share experiences with new and renewable energies, discuss the results of ECA studies and design a way forward to implement such initiatives in Africa;

(g) Providing an overall assessment of the project and establishing its usefulness for extension to other subregions in Africa.

X. Capacity-building in support of land policy reforms in African countries for achieving sustainable development

Economic Commission for Africa ($600,000)

Background

100. Land is central to Africa's social and economic development, and secure rights to land are fundamental for the participation of all people, including women and other disadvantaged groups, in the development process. In addition to secure land rights, addressing disparities in land ownership and access to land would greatly enhance efforts to achieve rural development and poverty reduction in the context of agrarian reforms. Land-related challenges, in particular non-comprehensive land policies; incoherent land legislation and other related legislation; and poor land administration are major causes of poor land governance, leading to insecure land rights, low agricultural productivity, poverty and conflicts.

101. Increased pressure on scarce land resources, which are managed mainly under unsecured land tenure, continue to pose a threat to agricultural and livestock production in Africa and many parts of the developing world. In addition, problems related to land distribution, utilization and administration continue to hamper efforts to increase the productivity of land and its resources, thus exacerbating poverty. In addition, land-related problems have been a major source of social and political conflicts, particularly in Africa, resulting in millions of displaced persons and contributing to food insecurity and environmental degradation.

102. The United Nations, through the FAO International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (ICARRD), has committed to supporting United Nations Member States in their efforts to address the above-mentioned challenges with a view to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Indeed, the last such Conference held in Porto Alegre, Brazil (7-10 March, 2006), adopted a Final Declaration that affirmed the need to address these land-related challenges within the framework of agrarian reform policies. A comprehensive agrarian reform calls for efforts to address land-related challenges through appropriate land policy and land administration reforms. In addition, addressing challenges related to poor infrastructure and access to credit and technology is vital for achieving the desired outcomes.

103. The project proposed here is intended to support the implementation of recommendations set out in the ICARRD Final Declaration, in particular supporting policy, law and institutional reforms that facilitate access to land and security of tenure for the marginalized in society, particularly women. The project is conceived in the context of the African Union Commission/ECA/African Development Bank (AfDB) land-policy initiative, which endeavours to catalyse the process of land-policy reforms in Africa in order to ensure that land and land resources are sustainably harnessed for the achievement of development goals. ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and AfDB, is currently working to develop a framework and a set of guidelines for land policy and land reform in Africa. It is envisaged that the framework and guidelines, when developed, will be endorsed by African Heads of State and Government and used to facilitate land-policy formulation and implementation for achieving sustainable development in Africa.

104. This initiative will culminate in the development of a virtual African land policy and administration facility, which will be aimed at harnessing information and communications technology to manage and share knowledge among policymakers, land experts and other actors involved in land policy and administration. It will also provide training in the monitoring and evaluation of progress in land reforms and facilitate the learning of lessons across countries and regions. The facility will serve the whole continent and link with subregional initiatives such as the SADC land facility, while encouraging the development of similar subregional and national initiatives. It will be managed by the African Union Commission/ECA/AfDB consortium, in collaboration with other key partners.

105. In order to ensure the sustainability of the African facility, efforts are under way within ECA to mainstream the maintenance element of the facility into the soon-to-be instituted knowledge management strategy. This is in line with similar projects in ECA, including the African Water Information Clearing House, which were started with project funds and later mainstreamed into regular ECA activities.

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of African countries to formulate and implement sound policies and legislation that facilitate secure land rights, increased agricultural productivity, secure livelihoods, peace and security and overall sustainable development.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogramme 5 (Statistics); ECA subprogramme 2 (Food security and sustainable development); Millennium Development Goal 8.

Summary budget
(Thousands of US dollars)

General temporary assistance	20.0
Consultants	84.0
Expert groups	72.0
Travel	144.0
Contractual services	70.0
Operating expenses	60.0
Workshops	150.0
Total	**600.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity for designing and implementing policies and programmes for integrated and sustainable management of land resources, which is geared towards making land and land resources more accessible, and increased land tenure security, especially for the poor	(a) Increased number of countries undertaking comprehensive policy reforms, including land policy reforms

(b) Adoption by Governments of appropriate indicators and tools for monitoring and assessing progress made in land policy and administrative reforms for achieving development goals and targets	(b) Increased availability of data and land management systems at the national and local levels
(c) Establishment of a network of actors involved in land policy and land administration, aimed at supporting exchange of experience and best practices in order to increase their influence and participation in the design, monitoring and evaluation of land policy issues	(c) (i) Increased number of regional economic communities and Member States utilizing tools for monitoring progress in land reforms (ii) Increased number of users of the virtual African land policy and administration facility, as reflected in the number of hits on the website

Main activities

106. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Organizing an expert-group meeting to assist in collating and developing indicators for assessing progress made in land policy and administrative reforms. This will be based on the framework and guidelines emanating from the African Union Commission/ECA/AfDB land policy initiative;

(b) Developing and maintaining a web-based facility to facilitate knowledge management and exchange on land policy and land management, and promote networking and learning of lessons among experts on land policy and administration;

(c) Three subregional policy workshops (East and Southern Africa, West Central Africa and North Africa) for staff of ministries responsible for land to build their technical capacity in monitoring and assessing progress made in land policy and administrative reforms.

Y. Strengthening capacity of local governments in Latin America to address critical issues arising from internationally agreed development goals

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean ($655,000)

Background

107. Lack of information is one of the factors that hamper the fulfilment of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. According to the information available, countries with higher poverty indices have more difficulty achieving the goals, since they lack the resources and institutions necessary to attain significant advances. This situation is even more serious if analysed at the level of local governments and territories in each country, because of major social, economic and technical disparities.

108. This means that it is necessary to build technical capacities at the local level and to attain greater decentralization in the design and implementation of policies to fulfil the goals, especially if they are targeted towards the territories that most need to fulfil them. The production of information at the local level is also required to allow the classification of the different territories by the extent to which they achieve the internationally agreed development goals.

109. The fulfilment of the goals in Latin America and the Caribbean has been very uneven, especially at the level of local territories. Thus, policy responses need to give preferential attention to territories.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen local governments' capacity to identify, quantify, evaluate and achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including Millennium Development Goals, at the local and subnational levels.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: ECLAC subprogramme 7 (Planning of public administration); all Millennium Development Goals.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Consultants	255.0
Travel	80.0
Contractual services	10.0
Operating expenses	5.0
Study tours	45.0
Workshops	260.0
Total	**655.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) The Millennium Development Goals are measured, assessed, evaluated and budgeted at the local and subnational levels	(a) Number of methodological guides distributed for measurement, assessment, evaluation and budgeting in respect of the Millennium Development Goals at the local and subnational levels (1,000 copies printed and distributed)
(b) Wider dissemination of the Millennium Development Goals through different awareness-raising tools at the local and subnational levels	(b) At least 10 subnational Latin American Governments incorporate the Millennium Development Goals in their local and subnational development plans
(c) Technical staff of subnational governments trained and able to incorporate the Millennium Development Goals in local and subnational development plans	(c) 520 professionals of subnational governments of at least 10 Latin American countries are trained in the methodological guide for measurement, assessment, evaluation and budgeting in respect of the Millennium Development Goals at the local and subnational levels
(d) Current situation of the Millennium Development Goals at the subnational level is diagnosed and compared in selected countries	(d) Accomplishment of five case studies of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean

Main activities

110. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Development of a methodological guide for measurement, assessment, evaluation and budgeting in respect of the Millennium Development Goals at the local and subnational levels;

(b) Organization of a workshop in 10 countries of the region for the dissemination and discussion of the guide;

(c) Production of a computational platform through the ECLAC web page for the dissemination of local and subnational measurement experiences in respect of the Millennium Development Goals;

(d) Organization of an electronic network of successful experiences in incorporating the Millennium Development Goals in development plans at the local and subnational levels, using the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) free open-source e-learning platform (http://moodle.eclac.cl) for training, discussion, dissemination and the building of virtual communities of learning;

(e) Organization of horizontal cooperation missions for sharing good practices;

(f) Preparation and organization of four e-learning courses (2 per year) on the handling and application of the methodological guide for measurement, evaluation and budgeting in respect of the Millennium Development Goals at the local and subnational levels (400 professionals trained);

(g) Incorporating in four international ILPES courses on local development the application of the methodological guide for measurement, assessment, evaluation and budgeting in respect of the Millennium Development Goals at the local and subnational levels (120 professionals trained);

(h) Application of the methodological guide to the study of five countries in close collaboration with ECLAC subregional and national offices.

Z. Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices in the Caribbean small island developing States to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs ($528,000)

Background

111. The need for building and strengthening institutional capabilities for generating reliable social and economic statistics in the Caribbean subregion has long been recognized, and national statistical offices have been searching for solutions to address this major gap, particularly in the area of social statistics. In response, ECLAC has been providing active support to the countries of the region in the design of their systems in the fields of economic and social statistics. Additionally, the United Nations Statistics Division, in conjunction with the CARICOM secretariat, developed and implemented a subregional project from 2000 to 2002 to start the process of improving the generation of social statistics in the subregion. That project subsequently became the CARICOM programme on social and gender statistics, initiated in 2002 with funding from UNDP and the World Bank. However, States of the region continue to face difficulties because of additional demands posed by the Millennium Development Goals and other global commitments. Much work to further develop capacities among the various States of the subregion remains to be done. Whatever approach is taken, it is crucial that the various agencies collaborate and cooperate to maximize the benefits of dwindling resources.

112. While the Millennium Development Goals are attainable, great care will be taken to take full advantage of and avoid duplication with ongoing activities of other regional bodies. This will require a strengthened regional capacity to ensure better formulation and monitoring to take into account the new development modalities. As a consequence, the project will strive to produce a

higher level of coordination of statistical work across the region on social, economic and environmental issues.

113. The project will reinforce initiatives of past and current projects aimed at broadening and improving statistics and other indicators through better use of experience and accumulated documentation and through technical assistance and will build on the experiences and lessons learned through previous Development Account projects such as those on (a) strengthening capacity in the compilation of statistics and indicators for United Nations conferences, follow-up in the CARICOM region (Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), (b) strengthening of networking of institutions and experts to accelerate the development of social and environmental statistics in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and (c) strengthening the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean countries to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals (ECLAC).

114. Furthermore, the project will support and have synergies with the ongoing multi-donor support for poverty assessment and reduction in the Caribbean, which is meant to enhance the collection of social data for poverty assessment, monitoring and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Caribbean. In addition, the project will address problems such as the lack of data or metadata that were highlighted by the previous regional efforts aimed at strengthening capacities in the generation of statistical indicators.

115. The project, which will be executed by ECLAC, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, its Statistics and Economic Projections Division in Santiago, the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and CARICOM, over a two-year period, will benefit the national statistical offices and agencies of 15 Caribbean countries.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen the technical capacities of the targeted Caribbean Governments' statistical offices, through networking of institutions and experts, to improve the social and environmental indicators to measure poverty, social cohesion and environmental sustainability with a view to advancing the fulfilment of Millennium Development Goals.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: ECLAC subprogrammes 4 (Social development and equity), 6 (Population and development), 7 (Planning of public administration) and 10 (Statistics and economic projections); Department of Economic and Social Affairs subprogramme 7 (Statistics); all Millennium Development Goals.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	24.0
Consultants	120.0
Travel	68.0
Contractual services	85.5
Operating expenses	7.0
Workshops	223.5
Total	**528.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Further strengthened capacity of Caribbean countries to establish common data collection protocols, definitions and classifications for the collection and dissemination of Millennium Development Goal indicators	(a) Number of countries that have established protocols and are in the process of developing country-specific Millennium Development Goal indicators

(b) Strengthened technical capacity of governmental institutions to produce and analyse harmonized data sets for use in the design and implementation of public polices that lead to the fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals, including the harmonization of the new household survey data sets in the Caribbean	(b) (i) Percentage of goals that can be adequately tracked in each country with locally produced data (ii) Increased number of professional staff in national statistical offices trained in the production and use of Millennium Development Goal indicators and in household survey methodologies by the end of the project
(c) Improved capacity in national statistical offices of participating countries to prepare national reports that are comparable across countries	(c) (i) Number of government institutions that by the end of the project have established policies for the collection and analysis of data on human resource development, poverty reduction programmes and environmental issues such as disaster risk reduction (ii) Number of Member States that by the end of the project have completed comparable national reports
(d) Establishment of a database that will facilitate the generation of indicators at the subregional level to measure the economic, social and environmental costs of maintaining current development patterns	(d) Increased number of governmental institutions that have set up databases and improved online access for users to household data sets

Main activities

116. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Conducting data collection, analysis and harmonization. This component includes country visits to assist national statistical offices in collecting existing data from household surveys, as well as in-house analysis and harmonization/systematization of the household data sets;

(b) Convening three expert-group meetings. The project will facilitate the convening of three two-day meetings of experts to discuss and forge a consensus on the harmonization/systematization of data sets and on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Caribbean;

(c) Organizing four regional training workshops on the collection, processing and analysis of information. Training will be provided to representatives of national statistical offices and development ministries with responsibility for the management and collection of statistical data for policymaking purposes;

(d) Organizing six national training workshops. This component will assist national statistical offices with metadata dissemination techniques through the online Caribbean statistical databanks containing systematized/harmonized data sets from the Caribbean social statistics database and the CaribTrade database housed in the ECLAC Port of Spain office and the ECLAC household survey data bank. Access to micro-level data sets will be improved via the Internet;

(e) Publication and dissemination of analyses of the comparable data sets, as well as a metadata dictionary to be used by national statistical offices and agencies needed for the maintenance of the statistical databases; a subregional report on the status of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Caribbean;

(f) Providing technical assistance to national statistical offices and agencies in harmonizing their databases to be compatible with the existing ECLAC databases.

AA. Participatory human development in post-conflict countries

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia ($506,000)

Background

117. In recent years, Iraqis, Palestinians, Lebanese and Yemenis have been through destructive wars, internal uprisings and conflicts, terrorism and debilitating sanctions. The countries' vital infrastructure has been partly devastated, malnutrition and abject poverty have spread, social conditions have worsened and the respective governments and authorities have had difficulty meeting the most basic needs of their people for health care, education and jobs.

118. The project will seek to understand the scope, parameters and processes of people's active participation in public policymaking in post-conflict countries. It will gather evidence on how best to empower institutions of civil society to claim their legitimate role in public policymaking, what policy and programme channels can best serve this particular purpose and what monitoring mechanisms and checks and balances can be instituted to ensure the availability and accessibility of basic social and economic services for all, particularly the most vulnerable and those who are further marginalized by conflict. The concept of participatory development is not new in the region, nor is the practice of social dialogue and popular participation at the local level. Little, however, has been done by Governments experiencing or emerging from conflict with regard to holding broad public consultations to identify development priorities. Knowledge gathered under this project will add significant value to our understanding and ability to mitigate the effects of conflicts in public policymaking.

119. The project will develop innovative strategies and devise participatory approaches that are appropriate to the countries concerned. Knowledge-sharing will be fostered through a range of activities, including training of trainers, seminars, documentation of lessons learned and electronic discussions where possible. A high-level seminar on best practices and lessons learned from similar practices in other regions will enhance the interregional exchange of expertise. The project will be implemented by ESCWA.

Objective of the Organization: To strengthen government entities and civil-society partnerships in war-torn ESCWA member countries in matters of initiating social policy dialogue and supporting and contributing to social-policy formulation, implementation and monitoring.

Relationship to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2008-2009 and the Millennium Development Goals: ESCWA subprogramme 2 (Integrated social policies); Millennium Development Goals 1 and 3.

Summary budget
(Thousands of United States dollars)

General temporary assistance	50.0
Consultants	127.0
Expert groups	30.0
Travel	36.0
Operating expenses	15.0
Study tours	48.0
Workshops	200.0
Total	**506.0**

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Increased capacity of relevant entities in member States to develop and implement development projects based on the social participatory approach, for increasing employment and thus reducing poverty	(a) (i) Positive and concurring feedback from participants in expert-group meetings on the regional social participatory development guidelines (ii) Participating civil-society institutions are empowered and their capacity enhanced to formulate and monitor public policies and networking capacity between government and civil society in the social domain is increased and institutionalized
(b) Improved technical and institutional capacity in post-conflict countries to develop and implement social participatory methodologies	(b) (i) Number of end-users from training sessions and regional workshops indicating that they have enhanced their knowledge and managerial skills through the training on social participatory methodologies (ii) Increased number of national stakeholders who can use basic social indicators of improved quality for policy-oriented research and analysis

Main activities

120. The main activities of the project will include:

(a) Securing partnerships with other regional commissions, United Nations agencies and national actors, particularly specialized governmental institutions, NGOs and civil society organizations; undertaking, with their collaboration, a comprehensive survey of the public/civil society institutions and stakeholders involved in the social development process in the four selected member countries;

(b) Organizing an expert-group meeting to review and finalize the regional guidelines for researchers who undertake participatory needs assessments, as well as the training manuals

for practitioners of participatory local development projects; disseminating guidelines and training material to the selected member countries;

(c) Organizing six electronic forums, facilitated by international experts, on topics relating to participatory human development. Each forum will last two to three weeks and will be hosted by the ESCWA Social Development Network;

(d) Production and wide dissemination of a consolidated report reflecting the main recommendations and new tools identified and discussed during the electronic discussion forum;

(e) Conducting four subregional training-of-trainers workshops on designing, managing and evaluating social participatory methodology training programmes/workshops;

(f) Conducting one regional workshop on the participatory research approach that builds the capacities of researchers involved in the development process, to undertake participatory development research and needs assessment with the participation of local society/and institutions of civil society;

(g) Convening a three-day interregional knowledge-sharing and networking seminar on the participatory development approach with 30 experts/development practitioners from Asia, Africa and Europe, as well as a selected group of end-users (governmental institutions, academia, researchers, civil society organizations, NGOs and activists). The outcomes of the expert-group meeting will be documented in a general development report assessing solutions/recommendations and their applicability in the relevant region.

Appendix 1

Projects proposed for funding from the Development Account during the biennium 2008-2009

	Project title	*Amount (United States dollars)*
A.	Strengthening national capacities to deal with international migration: maximizing development benefits and minimizing negative impact (ECLAC, jointly with ECA, ESCWA, ECE, ESCAP and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	1 193 000
B.	Enhancing the capacity of developing countries to implement international standards for commercial agricultural products in order to improve their trade competitiveness (ECE, jointly with ECA, ESCAP, ESCWA and UNCTAD)	703 000
C.	Enhancing capacities to eradicate violence against women through networking of local knowledge communities (ECLAC, jointly with ECA, ECE, ESCAP, ESCWA and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	736 000
D.	Enhancing the trade competitiveness of least developed countries, countries in transition and transit countries through the implementation of single-window facilities (ESCAP, jointly with ECE and in collaboration with UNCTAD)	763 000
E.	Eco-efficient and sustainable urban infrastructure development in Asia and Latin America (ESCAP, jointly with ECLAC and in collaboration with UN-Habitat)	753 000
F.	African statistical knowledge networks in support of progress towards the internationally agreed development goals (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, jointly with ECA)	896 000
G.	Capacity-building for graduation strategies for least developed countries in Asia and Africa (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with UNCTAD, ESCAP and ECA)	615 000
H.	Strengthening statistical capacity in support of progress towards the internationally agreed development goals in the countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ESCAP)	683 900
I.	Strengthening national capacity for the integration of sustainable development principles into development strategies in countries emerging from conflict (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	546 000
J.	Enhancing national capacities for the effective implementation of the United Nations development agenda and assessment of progress (Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	723 000
K.	Building institutional capacity and networks to work with young people for development in Africa (Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in collaboration with ECA)	590 000

Project title	*Amount (United States dollars)*
L. Strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium-sized enterprises in the tourism sector of six developing countries in the Economic Community of West African States subregion (UNCTAD, in collaboration with ECA)	489 000
M. Support for decision-making and policy formulation on foreign direct investment in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the Monterrey Consensus (UNCTAD, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	402 000
N. Promoting subregional growth-oriented economic and trade policies towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Arab countries of West Asia and North Africa (UNCTAD, with ECA and ESCWA)	531 000
O. Enhancing effective participation of developing countries in dynamic and new sectors of international trade (UNCTAD)	530 000
P. Building productive capacities in developing countries to enhance their participation in global supply chains (UNCTAD)	450 000
Q. Building national capacities for biodiversity indicators and reporting in Southern and Eastern Africa (UNEP, in collaboration with ECA)	504 000
R. Strengthening national institutional capacities for mainstreaming multilateral environmental agreements into national poverty reduction strategies (UNEP)	661 000
S. Global energy network for urban settlements: promoting energy access for the urban poor worldwide (UN-Habitat)	445 000
T. Building capacity for localizing the Millennium Development Goals at the urban and municipal levels in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-Habitat, in collaboration with ECLAC)	381 000
U. Strengthening national criminal justice capacity to disrupt key human trafficking routes in Egypt, Pakistan and Kyrgyzstan (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)	531 000
V. Water quality in Central Asia (ECE, in collaboration with ESCAP and UNEP)	443 000
W. Innovative financing mechanisms for new and renewable energy projects (ECA, with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	623 000
X. Capacity-building in support of land policy reforms in African countries for achieving sustainable development (ECA)	600 000
Y. Strengthening capacity of local governments in Latin America to address critical issues arising from internationally agreed development goals (ECLAC)	655 000
Z. Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices in the Caribbean small island developing States to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals (ECLAC, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs)	528 000
AA. Participatory human development in post-conflict countries (ESCWA)	506 000

Appendix 2

Summary of follow-up action taken to implement relevant recommendations of the oversight bodies

A. Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7)

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The Advisory Committee points out the need to improve the pace of implementation of Development Account projects. In this connection, the Committee was informed that the protracted and delayed pace of implementation, particularly in regard to the first two tranches of the Development Account, has improved because of a clearer understanding of the objectives and greater experience in implementing projects. The Committee recommends that attention be paid to the need to execute projects within two bienniums, consistent with the decision of the General Assembly (para. XIII.6).	The programme manager puts continued focus on the pace of implementation of projects through detailed implementation plans in the project documents and by asking for detailed work plans in the annual progress reports. Projects in the fourth tranche are expected to be completed by the end of the year.
As stated in paragraph V.84 above, the Secretary-General submitted a report entitled "Review of the regular programme of technical cooperation and the Development Account" (A/59/397) in response to the request in paragraphs 48 and 58 of General Assembly resolution 58/270. The comments of the Advisory Committee on the regular programme of technical cooperation are contained in paragraphs V.84-V.91 above. The Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General provides an analysis of the similarities and differences between the two programmes, including legislative histories and operating modalities. The operating modalities of the Development Account are set out in paragraphs 59 to 70 and its relevance is stated in paragraphs 72 and 73 of the report. In section VII of the report, the Secretary-General makes proposals for the approval of a statement of objective for the Development Account (para. 107) and for reconsidering its funding level, which was established in 1997 (paras. 108-109); in section VIII, it is proposed to combine sections 23 and 35 into one budget section (para. 112). The General Assembly may wish to take a policy decision regarding the first two proposals (para. XIII.11).	The objective as presented in A/59/397 was reflected as part of the overview of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/60/6 (Sect. 34)) and was endorsed by the General Assembly in its relevant budget resolution.

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
As to the third proposal, the Advisory Committee recalls that, in paragraph XIII.11 of its first report on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005, it recommended that the Development Account and the regular programme of technical cooperation sections of the budget be combined into one section with separate parts, not only to facilitate programme reporting, but to assist in the examination of the Development Account and the role of advisory services. The Committee notes that the report of the Secretary-General states that, besides the fact that the presentation would result in a slightly simplified overall structure, it is possible that "some savings in governance time and perhaps a better informed discussion could be achieved" if the two programmes were considered together (A/59/397, para. 112). The Committee therefore reiterates its recommendation on combining the two sections into one, with two parts (para. XIII.12).	The proposal was discussed in the course of the mandate review, but no final decision was made.

B. Board of Auditors (A/61/5, vol. I)

Brief description of the recommendation	*Action taken to implement the recommendation*
The Administration agreed with the Board's recommendation that it ensure that programme managers observe the timelines for the submission of annual Development Account progress reports so that the benefits of well-timed reports can be realized and, in the formulation and revision of project documents, take into consideration the lessons learned in the implementation of previous projects, in line with the guidelines set for Development Account projects (para. 388).	The programme manager insists that the implementing entities comply with the established timeline for the submission of progress reports. For the 47 projects under the fourth and fifth tranches, 43 progress reports have been submitted on time, with the 4 outstanding reports being finalized. Project documents of the fifth and sixth tranches include information on lessons learned from the implementation of previous projects.